

STORY: ISUNA HASEKURA

ART: KEITO KOUME

CHARACTER DESIGN:  
JYUU AYAKURA

# SPICE & WOLF

VOL. 9

PARENTAL ADVISORY  
**WARNING**  
EXPLICIT CONTENT

SPICE & WOLF



## **Lawrence**

A clever young merchant. Traveling in search of Holo's homeland of Yoitsu.



## **Holo**

Lawrence's traveling companion, a beautiful girl. Her true form is that of the wolf-god of the harvest.

## **Col**

A boy saved by Lawrence at the river checkpoint. A naive but clever lad.



## **Eve**

A mysterious merchant woman. Normally hides her face and dresses like a man.

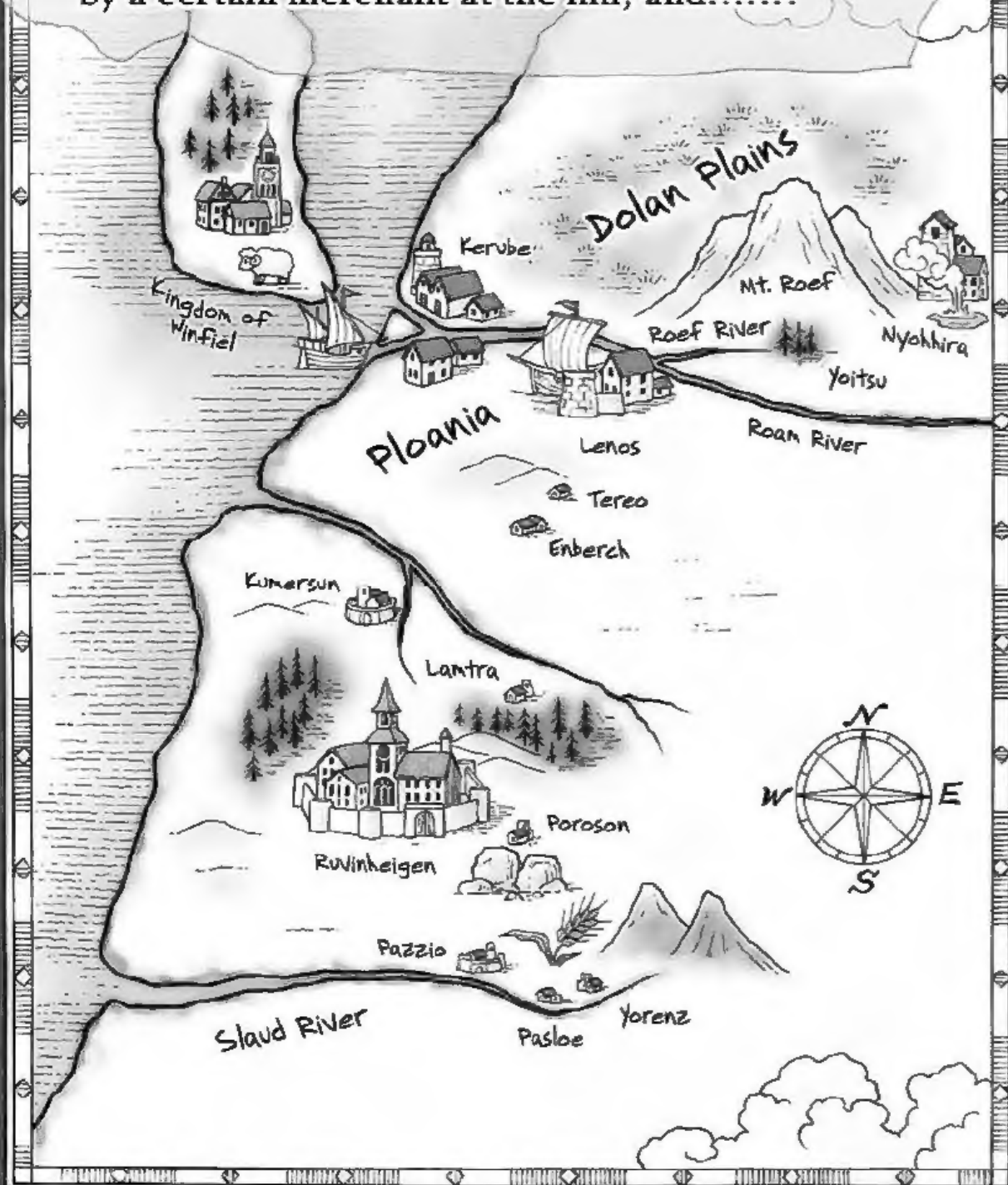


## **Kieman**

The Kerube branch chief of the trade guild that counts Lawrence as one of its members. A cool-headed, canny businessman.

## Introduction

In search of the forest of Yoitsu, Holo's homeland, Lawrence and Holo continue their travels. Avoiding an unstable situation in the town of Lenos, they proceed downriver toward the port town of Kerube. Along the way, they hear from a boatman about a forbidden book that tells of how to strip-mine a mountain bare. Lawrence and Holo decide to seek out the text to protect Yoitsu. Setting out to gather information in Kerube, Lawrence is approached by a certain merchant at the inn, and.....?



# SPICE & WOLF

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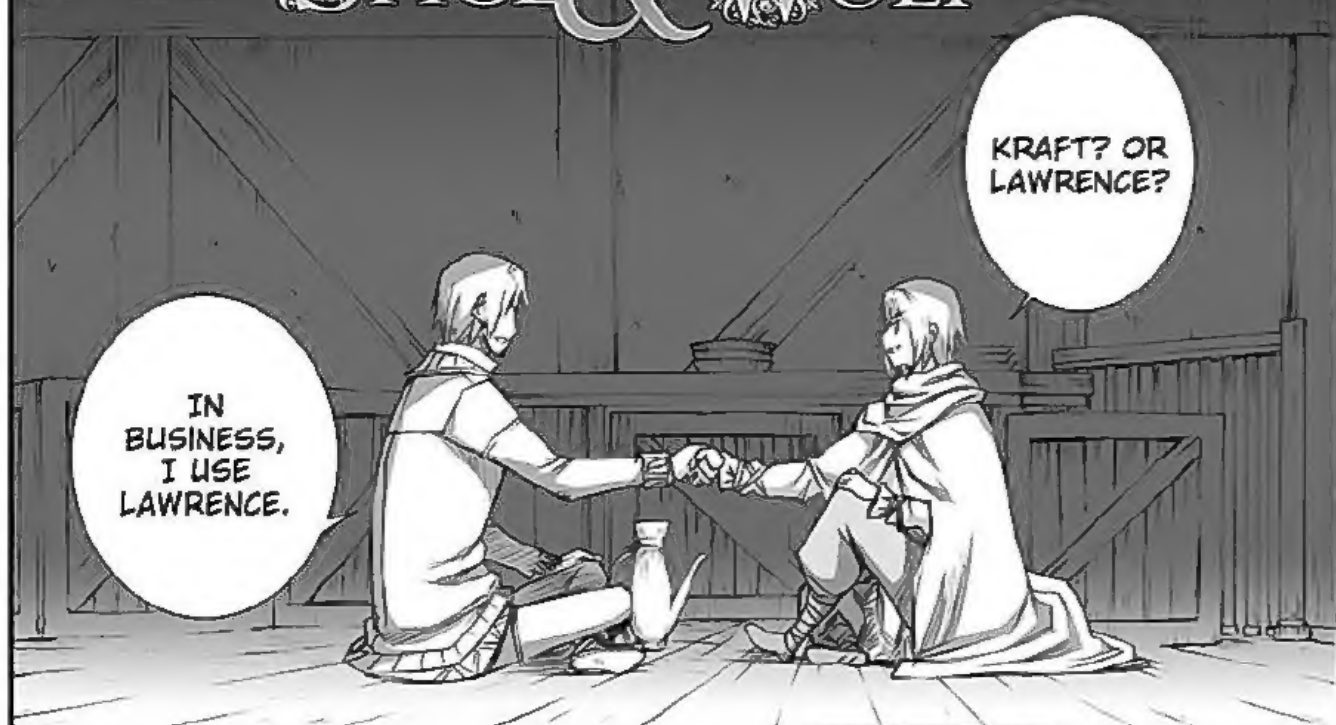
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# SPICE & WOLF







I'M  
STARTING TO  
CHANGE MY  
IMPRESSION  
OF YOU.

AND QUITE  
COURTEOUS,  
IF I DO SAY  
SO MYSELF.



MERCHANTS  
DON'T GET  
INFATUATED  
SO EASILY.  
THOUGH YOU'RE  
NOT BAD-  
LOOKING. SO IT'S  
NOT THAT.



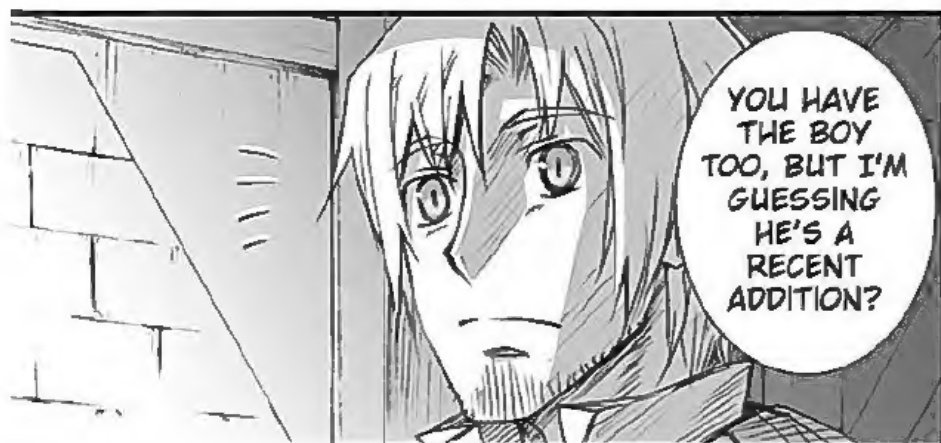
MIGHT I  
ASK WHY  
YOU'VE  
CHOSEN ME  
FOR THIS  
PARTICULAR  
HONOR?



...IS QUITE  
SIMPLE.  
I JUST  
WANTED  
SOMEONE  
TO TALK  
TO.

THE  
REASON I  
GOT YOUR  
ATTENTION  
...

SHE  
REMINDS  
ME OF  
HOLD,  
SOMEHOW.



YOU HAVE  
THE BOY  
TOO, BUT I'M  
GUESSING  
HE'S A  
RECENT  
ADDITION?

HE'S  
GOT A  
GOOD  
EYE FOR  
PEOPLE.

THE  
IMPORTANT  
THING...IS  
THAT OLD  
MAN AROLD  
LIKES YOU.



AH, THE  
CIRCUMSTANCES  
AROUND MY  
COMPANION  
ARE RATHER  
COMPLICATED...



I'VE NO  
INTENTION  
OF PRYING.

THAT  
AND YOUR  
CHARMING  
TRAVELING  
COMPANION.



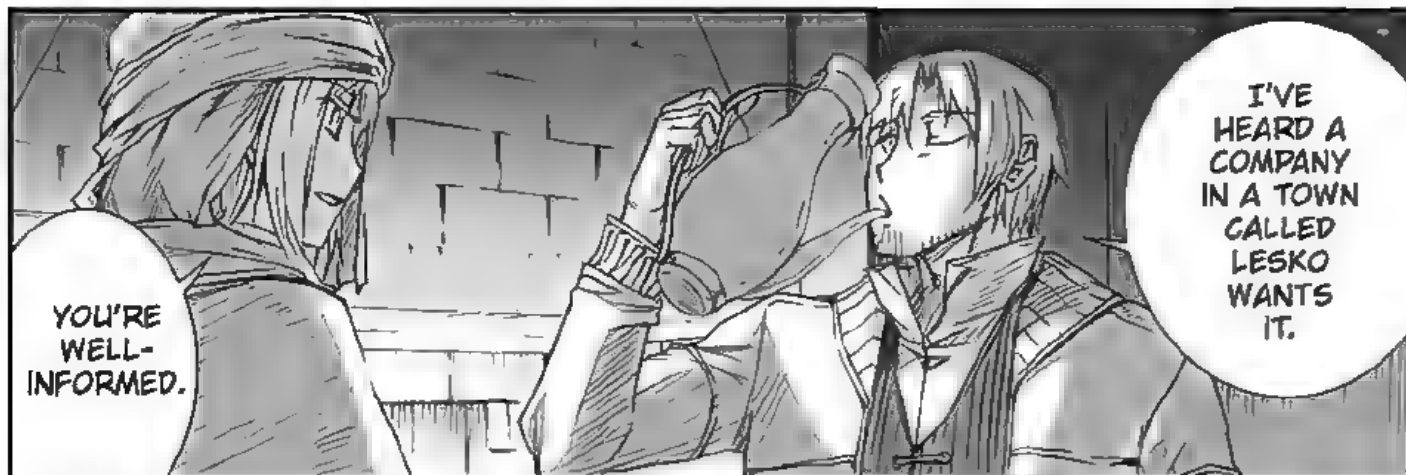
SO I  
FIGURED  
YOU'D BE  
SAFE TO  
TALK TO...  
THAT'S  
ALL.

THE THREE  
OF YOU  
SEEM WELL  
ACCUSTOMED  
TO TRAVEL  
AND AREN'T  
CONNECTED  
BY MONEY.









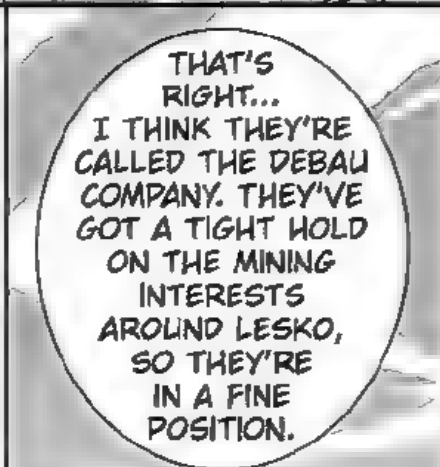
YOU'RE  
WELL-  
INFORMED.

I'VE  
HEARD A  
COMPANY  
IN A TOWN  
CALLED  
LESKO  
WANTS  
IT.



I HEARD  
SOMETHING  
ABOUT THEM  
HANDLING  
COPPER COINS  
HEADED FOR  
WINFIEL...

SO  
THE JEAN  
COMPANY  
MUST BE A  
FAIRLY BIG  
ONE TOO.



THAT'S  
RIGHT...  
I THINK THEY'RE  
CALLED THE DEBAU  
COMPANY. THEY'VE  
GOT A TIGHT HOLD  
ON THE MINING  
INTERESTS  
AROUND LESKO,  
SO THEY'RE  
IN A FINE  
POSITION.



IF THEY  
SEE A FACE  
THEY DON'T  
RECOGNIZE,  
THEY'LL TURN  
YOU AWAY AT  
THE DOOR.

NO  
MATTER HOW  
PROSPEROUS  
THEY MAY BE,  
THEY STILL  
HANDLE  
MONEY.

I SEE.







I DEAL  
WITH THE  
JEAN  
COMPANY  
FROM TIME  
TO TIME.

I'LL  
WRITE YOU  
A LETTER  
OF INTRO-  
DUCTION.



AREN'T  
YOU A  
FUNNY  
FELLOW?



I WAS  
THINKING  
I'D USE  
THAT  
ANGLE.

THEY'RE  
LOOKING  
FOR A BOOK  
WITH A HUGE  
REWARD ON  
IT, THOUGH.

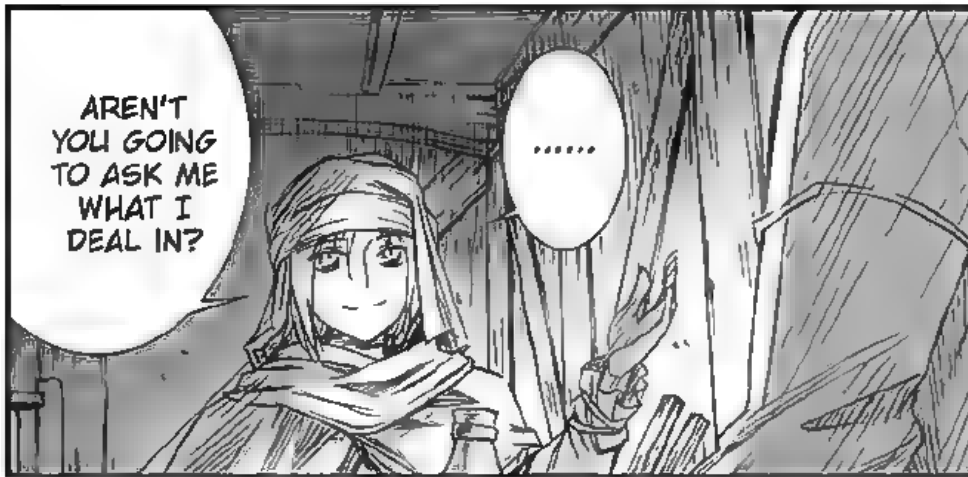


IT'S SO  
SUSPICIOUS  
THAT IT'S  
STRANGELY  
BELIEVABLE.

A  
TRAVELING  
MERCHANT  
CALLING ON  
A COMPANY  
ABOUT THE  
BOOK WITH A  
WOMAN AND  
CHILD IN  
TOW.



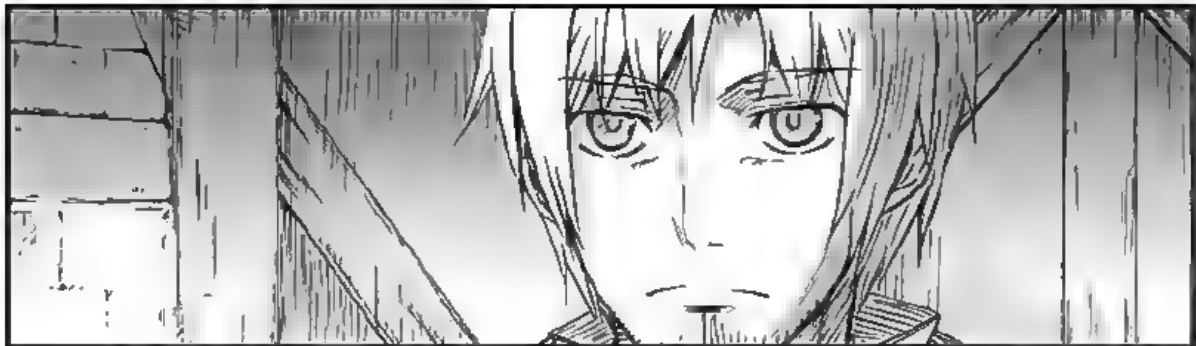
I CAN SEE  
WHY OLD  
MAN AROLD  
LIKES YOU!





ALL I ASK  
IS THAT YOU  
CHAT WITH  
ME.

I ASK  
FOR  
NEITHER  
COIN NOR  
GOODS.



BUT  
SOMEONE  
I CAN TALK TO  
WITHOUT HIDING  
THE FACT THAT  
I'M A WOMAN  
IS WORTH  
MORE THAN  
LIMAR GOLD  
TO ME.



WHAT?  
IT'S NO LIE.  
THOUGH  
I'M NOT  
SURPRISED  
YOU'RE  
SUSPI-  
CIOUS.







I MIGHT  
NOT LOOK  
IT, BLT—



I'M  
NORMALLY  
WANDERING  
AROUND  
THE DELTA  
MARKETPLACE,  
SO IF YOU'RE  
FREE, YOU  
SHOULD COME  
AND CHAT.



YOU'RE A  
CHARMING  
CONVER-  
SATION-  
ALIST.



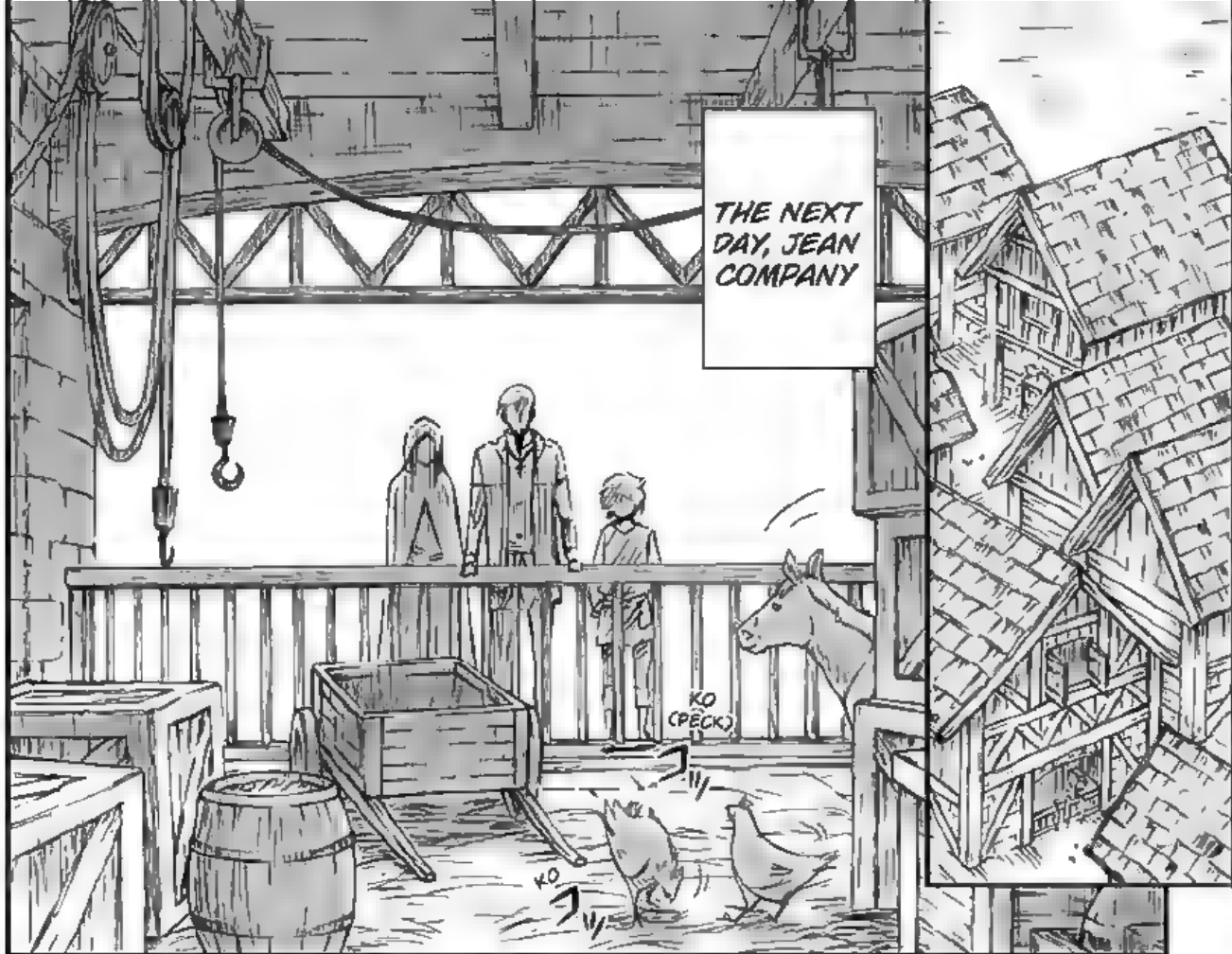
SO  
LONG  
AS MY  
COMPANION  
DOESN'T  
TURN  
JEALOUS.

HA  
HA  
HA!

INDEED,  
THAT'D BE  
A TERRIBLE  
TURN OF  
EVENTS.

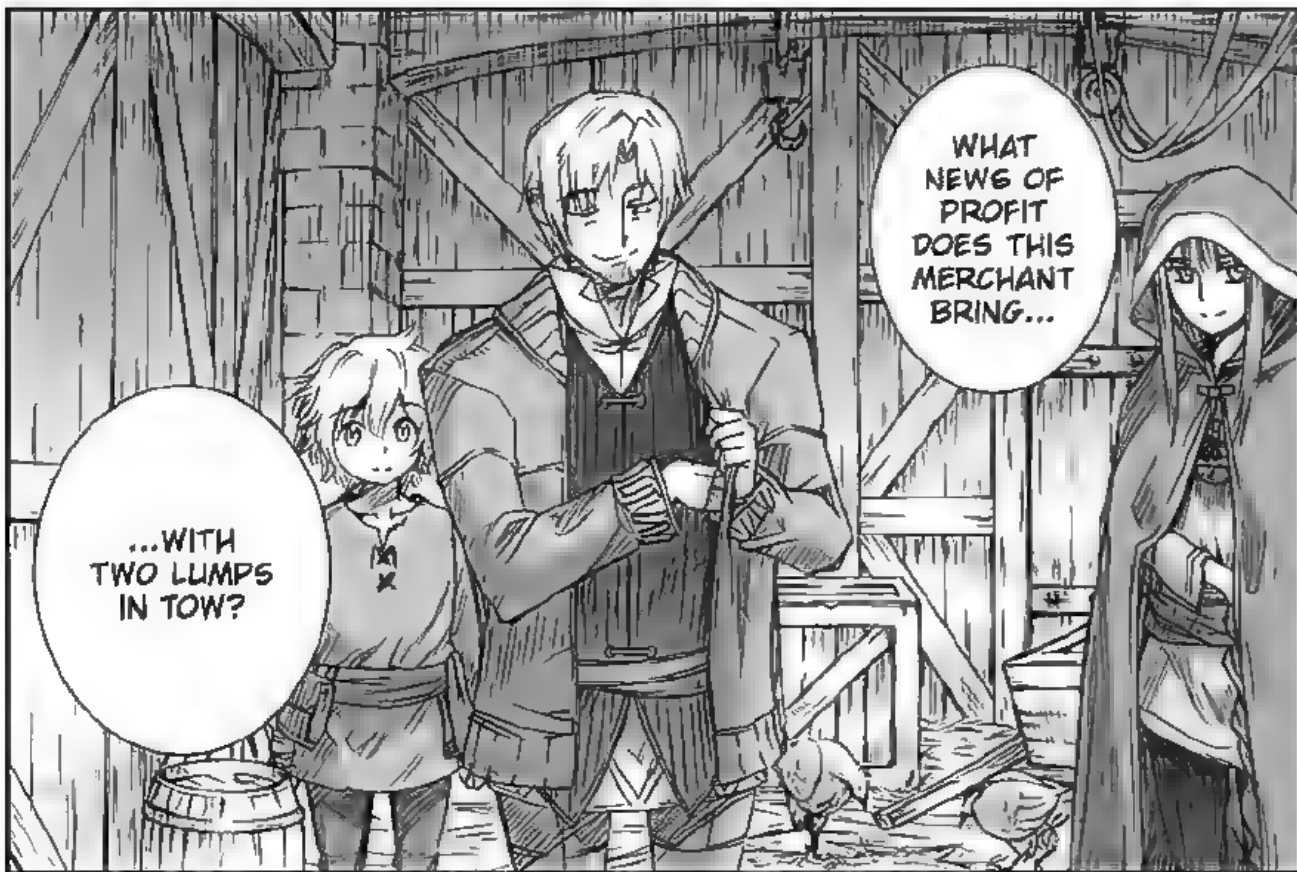


HEH, I  
SUPPOSE  
SO.

















I HAD  
IMAGINED  
HIM SLIGHTLY  
YOUNGER,  
BUT THIS IS  
THE RIGHT  
MAN...



WHERE  
DID YOU  
HEAR  
ABOUT  
THE  
BOOK?



HOHH?

...ACTUALLY,  
THESE TWO  
ARE FROM THE  
NORTHLANDS.



WELCOME,  
KRAFT  
LAWRENCE.

I'M THE  
MASTER OF  
THE JEAN  
COMPANY, TED  
REYNOLDS.



...AFTER  
HEARING THE  
RUMOR THAT  
A CUSTOMER  
OF MINE HAD  
PLT A TRULY  
REMARKABLE  
PRICE ON A  
CERTAIN  
BOOK.

THIS...  
IS THE  
RESULT OF  
THE EFFORT  
OF ALL THE  
PEOPLE  
WHO SO  
HELPFULLY  
COOPER-  
ATED...







NOT AT ALL.  
IF I'M THE  
ONLY ONE  
TALKING,  
I'LL NEVER  
NOTICE HOW  
LONG-WINDED  
I'M BEING.

I  
APOLOGIZE  
FOR  
INTER-  
RUPTING  
YOUR  
TALE.

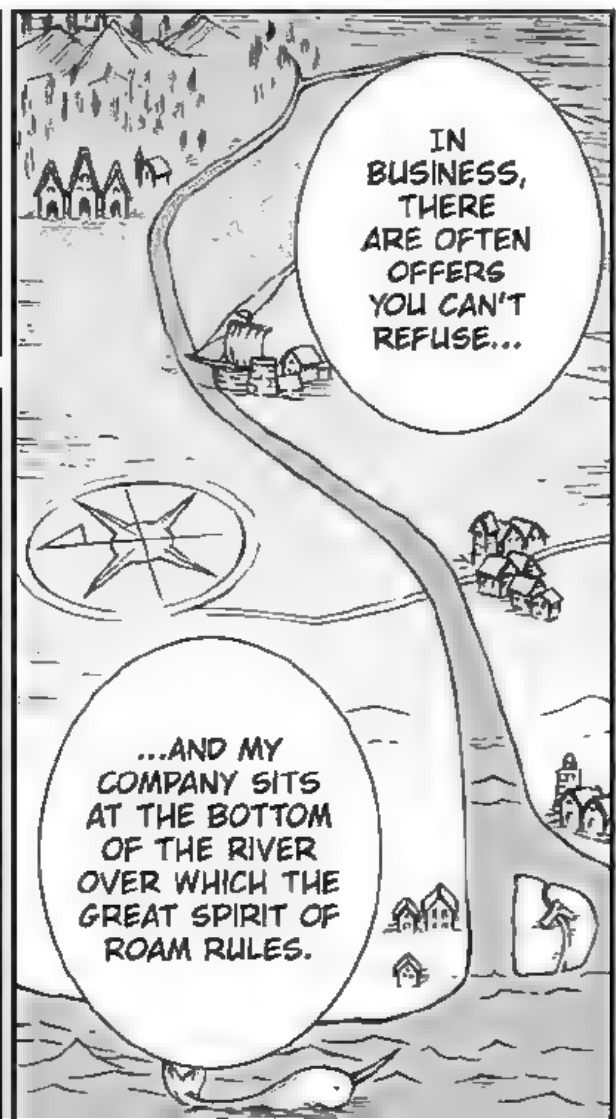


AS YOU KNOW,  
THEY'RE BENT  
ON LEVELING  
THE MOUNTAINS  
AND MINING THE  
REGION.

THE DEBAU  
COMPANY IS  
A POWERFUL  
ONE, AND EVEN  
NOW CONTROLS  
MOST OF THE  
ROAM RIVER  
BASIN.



WE  
MUST MEET  
WHATEVER  
COMES DOWN  
THE RIVER,  
WHATEVER  
HAPPENS.



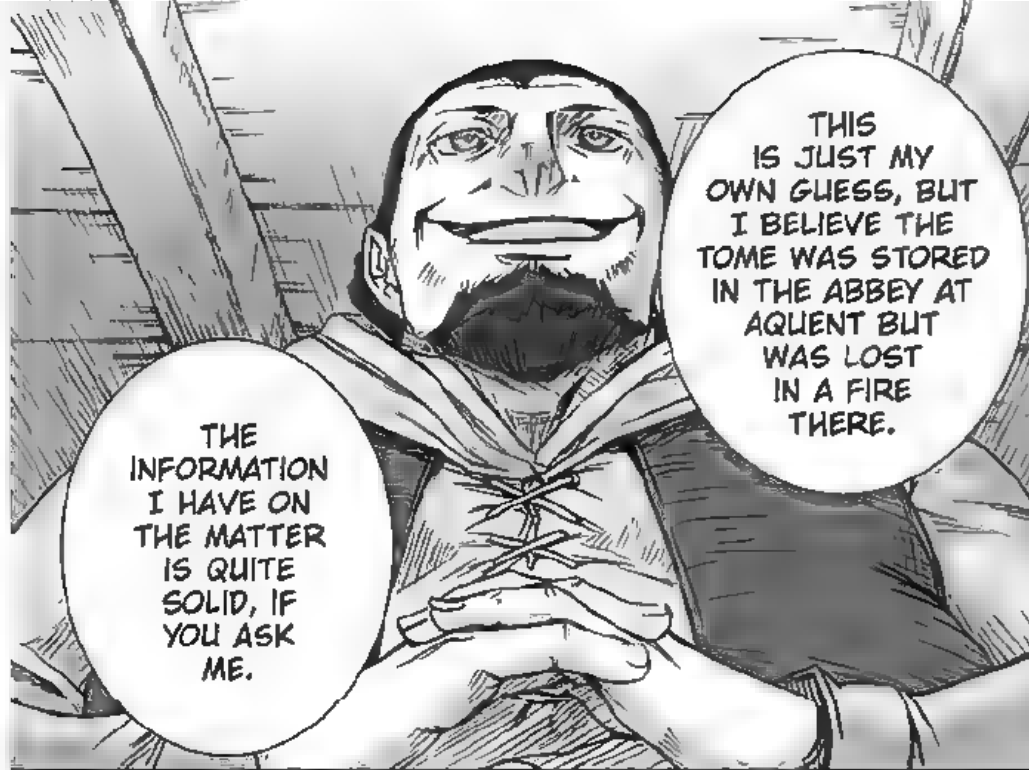
IN  
BUSINESS,  
THERE  
ARE OFTEN  
OFFERS  
YOU CAN'T  
REFUSE...



TRULY...

...NO  
MATTER  
THE COST,  
EH?

...AND MY  
COMPANY SITS  
AT THE BOTTOM  
OF THE RIVER  
OVER WHICH THE  
GREAT SPIRIT OF  
ROAM RULES.



THE  
INFORMATION  
I HAVE ON  
THE MATTER  
IS QUITE  
SOLID, IF  
YOU ASK  
ME.

THIS  
IS JUST MY  
OWN GUESS, BUT  
I BELIEVE THE  
TOME WAS STORED  
IN THE ABBEY AT  
AQUENT BUT  
WAS LOST  
IN A FIRE  
THERE.



BECAUSE  
SOME  
WERE  
SAVING  
THAT  
IF THE  
REAL  
THING  
WERE  
FOUND,  
THEY'D  
BE PAID A  
THOUSAND,  
TWO  
THOUSAND  
LUNIONS  
FOR IT.

ANYWAY,  
IT TURNED  
INTO QUITE A  
COMMOTION.



THERE WAS  
A GREAT  
FIRE IN  
AQUENT  
FOUR OR  
FIVE YEARS  
AGO!

.....



SO, UM...  
COULD YOU  
SHOW US  
ANY OF THE  
LETTERS  
RELATING TO  
AQUENT?

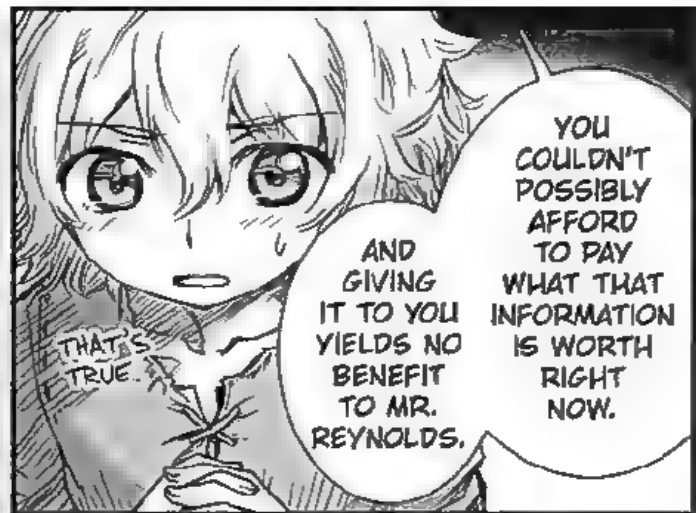
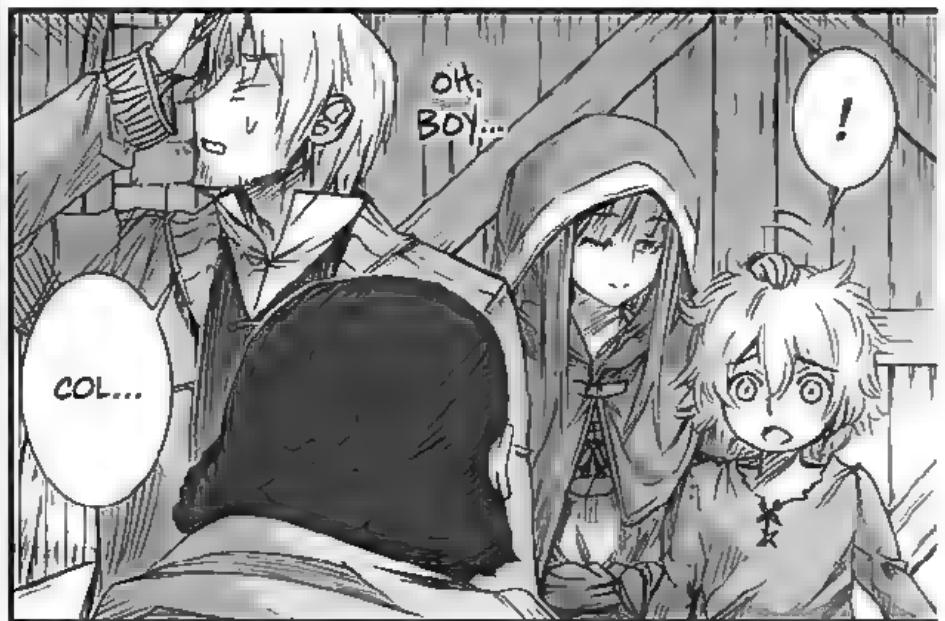
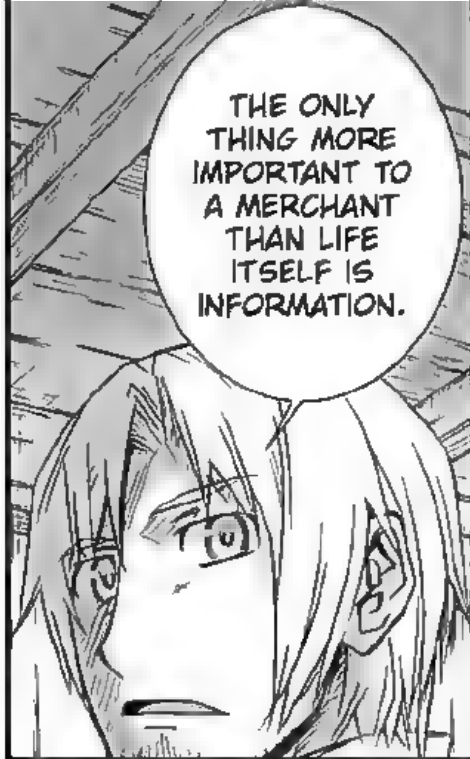


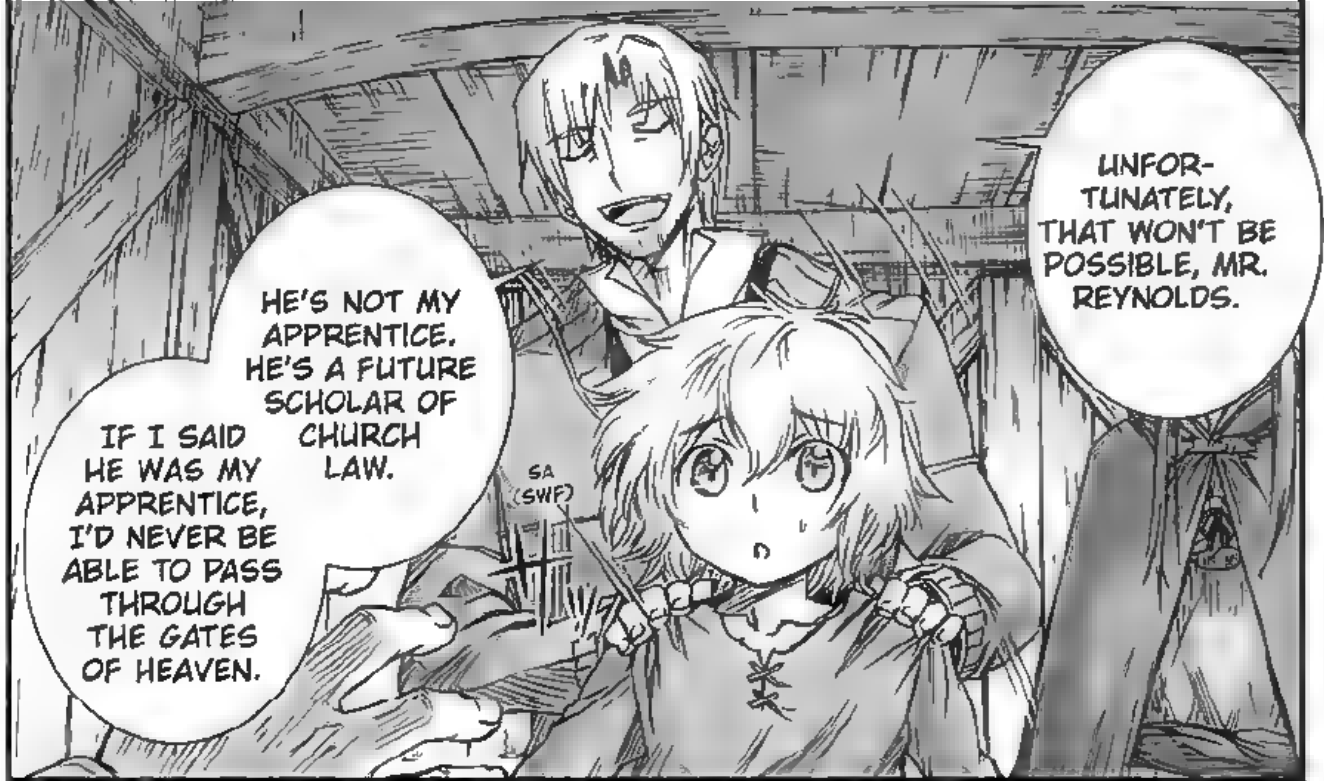
OH  
HOHH!

A  
STUDENT,  
WERE  
YOU?

ZUI  
(ZOOM)

UH,  
UM...





IF I SAID  
HE WAS MY  
APPRENTICE,  
I'D NEVER BE  
ABLE TO PASS  
THROUGH  
THE GATES  
OF HEAVEN.

HE'S NOT MY  
APPRENTICE.  
HE'S A FUTURE  
SCHOLAR OF  
CHURCH  
LAW.

UNFOR-  
TUNATELY,  
THAT WON'T BE  
POSSIBLE, MR.  
REYNOLDS.

SA  
(SWF)

SU  
(SHF)



MY  
GOODNESS.

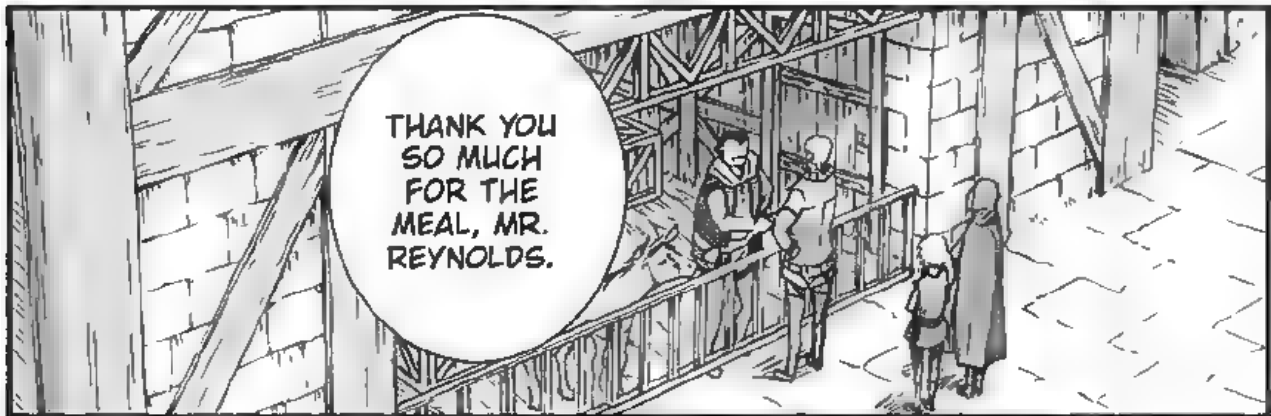
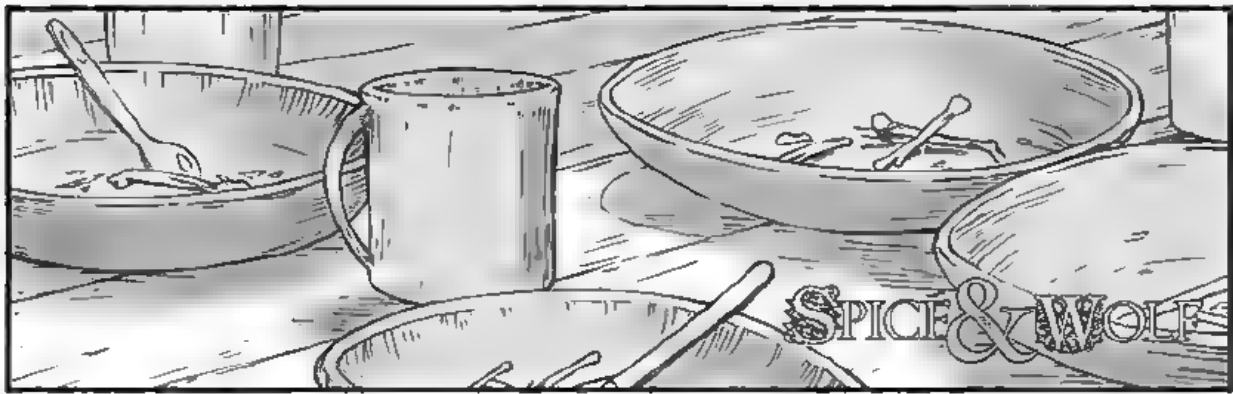
HRMMMM...  
I SEE WHY  
THAT WOLF  
OF A WOMAN  
WOULD PUT  
HER TRUST IN  
YOU IF YOU'RE  
TRAVELING  
WITH SUCH  
A TALENTED  
YOUNGSTER.



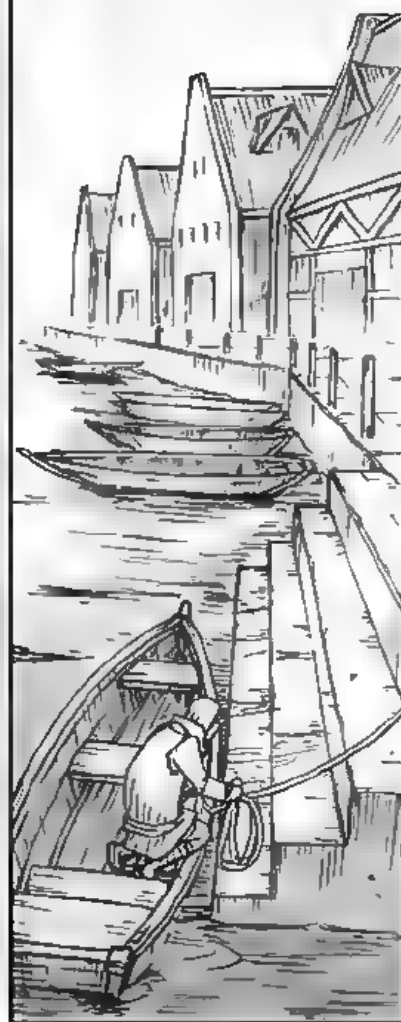
SO, THEN,  
IS THIS ONE  
FROM A FAMOUS  
CONVENT  
SOMEWHERE?







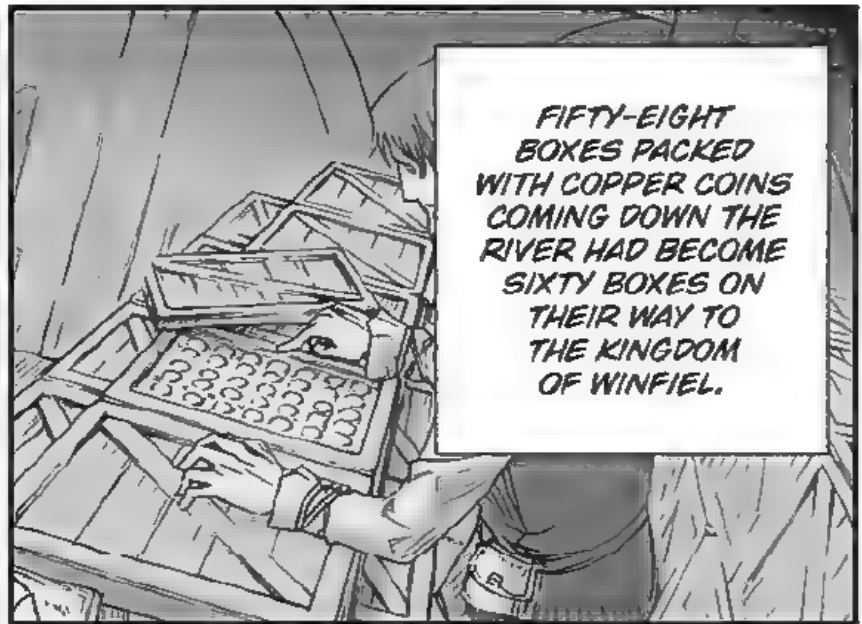
# SPICE & WOLF

























THAT'S  
BECAUSE  
I AM YOUR  
FOOD.



I AM ALWAYS  
THINKING  
ABOUT YOU,  
AS WELL!

POFU  
(FLUMP)



SO  
YOU'LL  
LOOSEN  
YOUR PURSE  
STRINGS  
A BIT FOR  
ME?



KUH  
FU!  
FU!

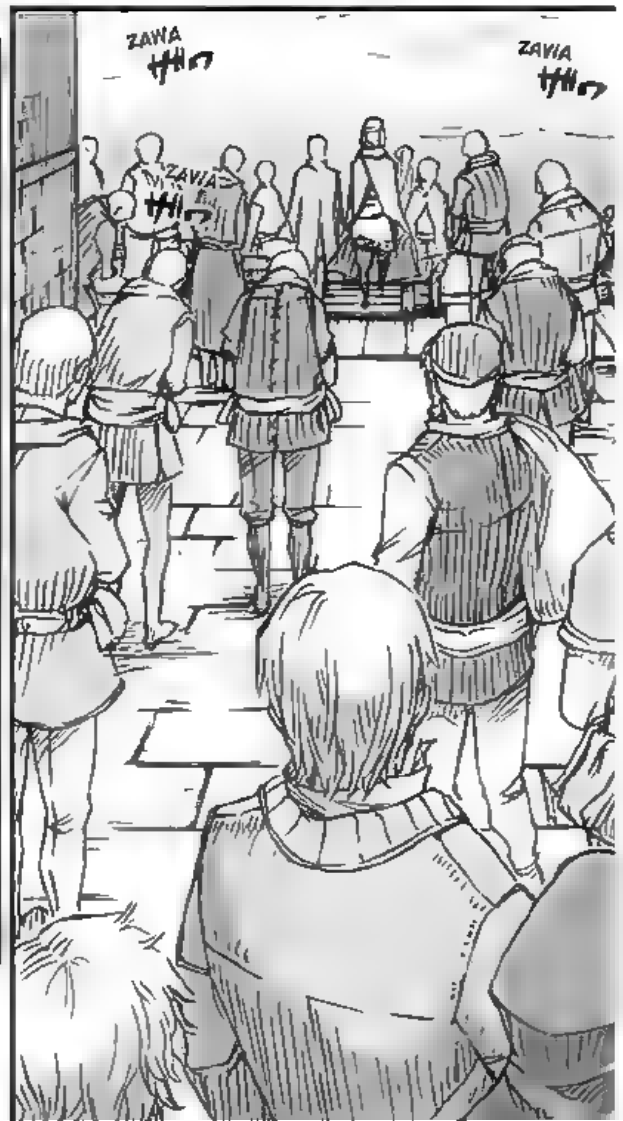
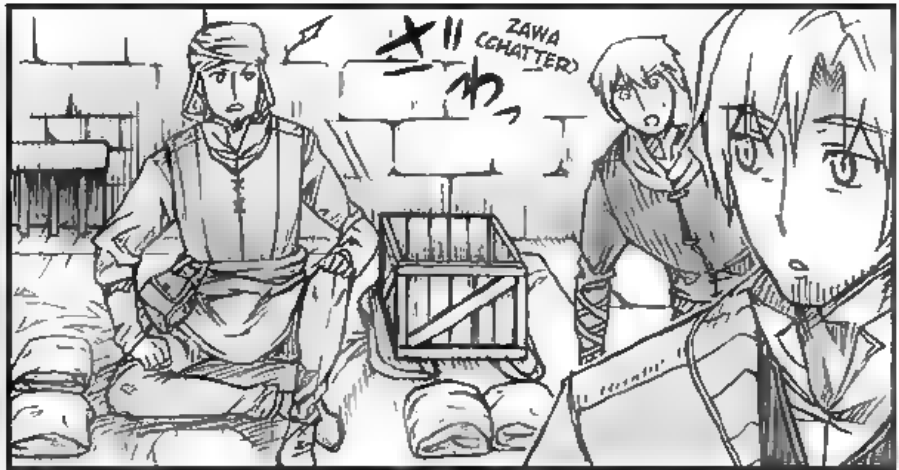
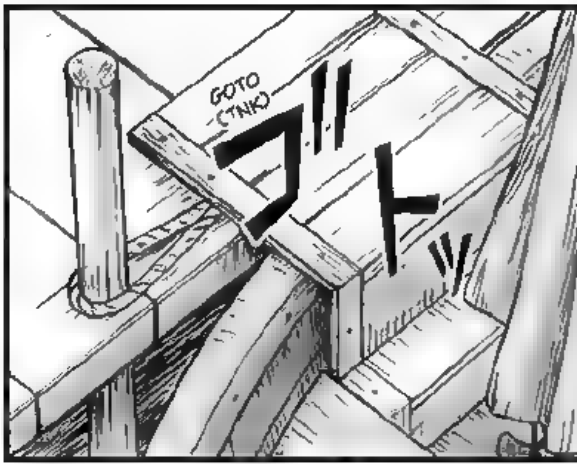
DID YOU  
PUT COL  
UP TO  
THAT?



TH-  
THANK  
YOU IN  
ADVANCE  
FOR THE  
FOOD.









YES, AS  
A BIT OF  
A BREAK  
FROM  
WORK.



...BUT MAYBE  
SIGHTSEEING  
COMES FIRST.

I THOUGHT  
FOR SURE  
YOU'D  
HEADED TO  
THE SOUTH  
SIDE...

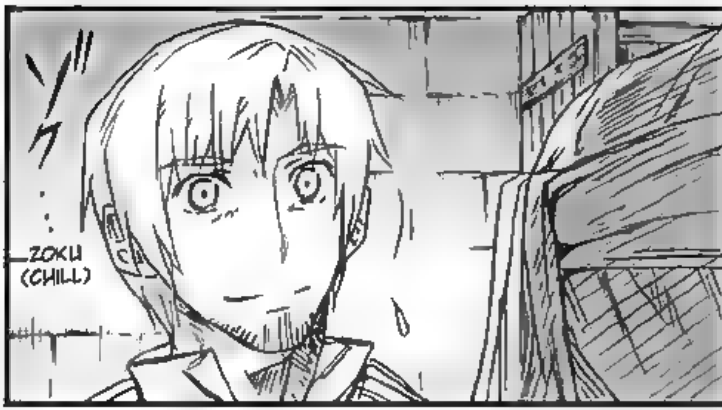




THEY'RE NOT INVOLVED IN BUYING OR SELLING GOODS.

ARE THEY MERCHANTS?

THEY'RE FROM THE NORTH SIDE OF TOWN.









AND THE CROWDS HAVE TURNED UP TO WATCH, YOU SEE.

THE LEADERS OF THE TOWN ARE HAVING THEIR MEETING AT THE "SPRING OF GOLD" TODAY.



...YOU SAID SOMETHING VERY SIMILAR.

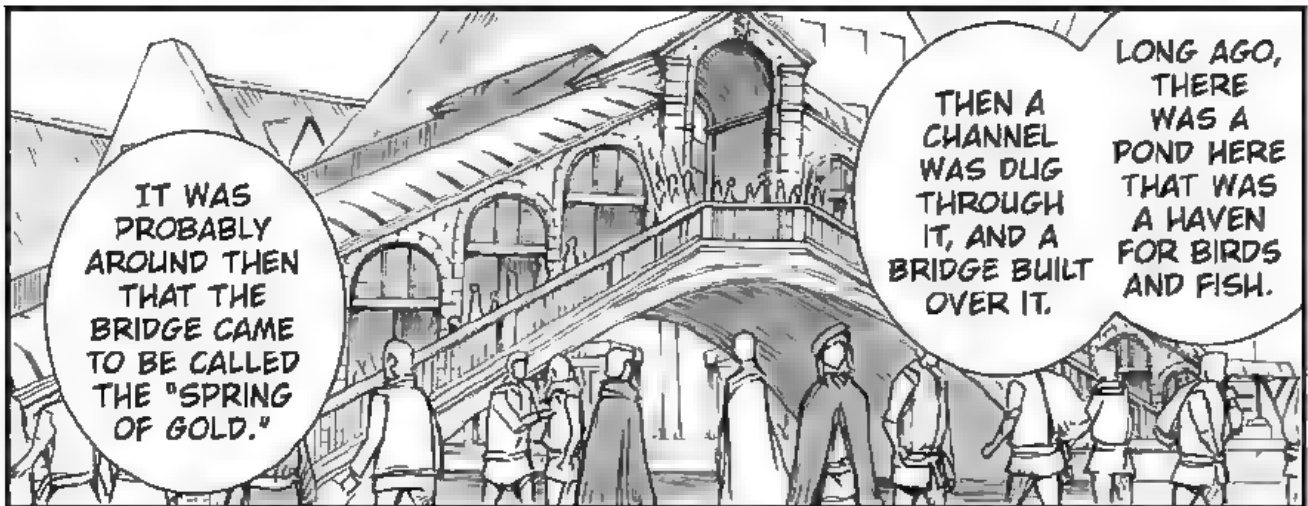
AS I RECALL, WHEN WE FIRST ENTERED PAZZIO...



LOOK,  
THAT BRIDGE  
THERE.



THERE'S A  
SPRING?



IT WAS  
PROBABLY  
AROUND THEN  
THAT THE  
BRIDGE CAME  
TO BE CALLED  
THE "SPRING  
OF GOLD."

THEN A  
CHANNEL  
WAS DUG  
THROUGH  
IT, AND A  
BRIDGE BUILT  
OVER IT.

LONG AGO,  
THERE  
WAS A  
POND HERE  
THAT WAS  
A HAVEN  
FOR BIRDS  
AND FISH.



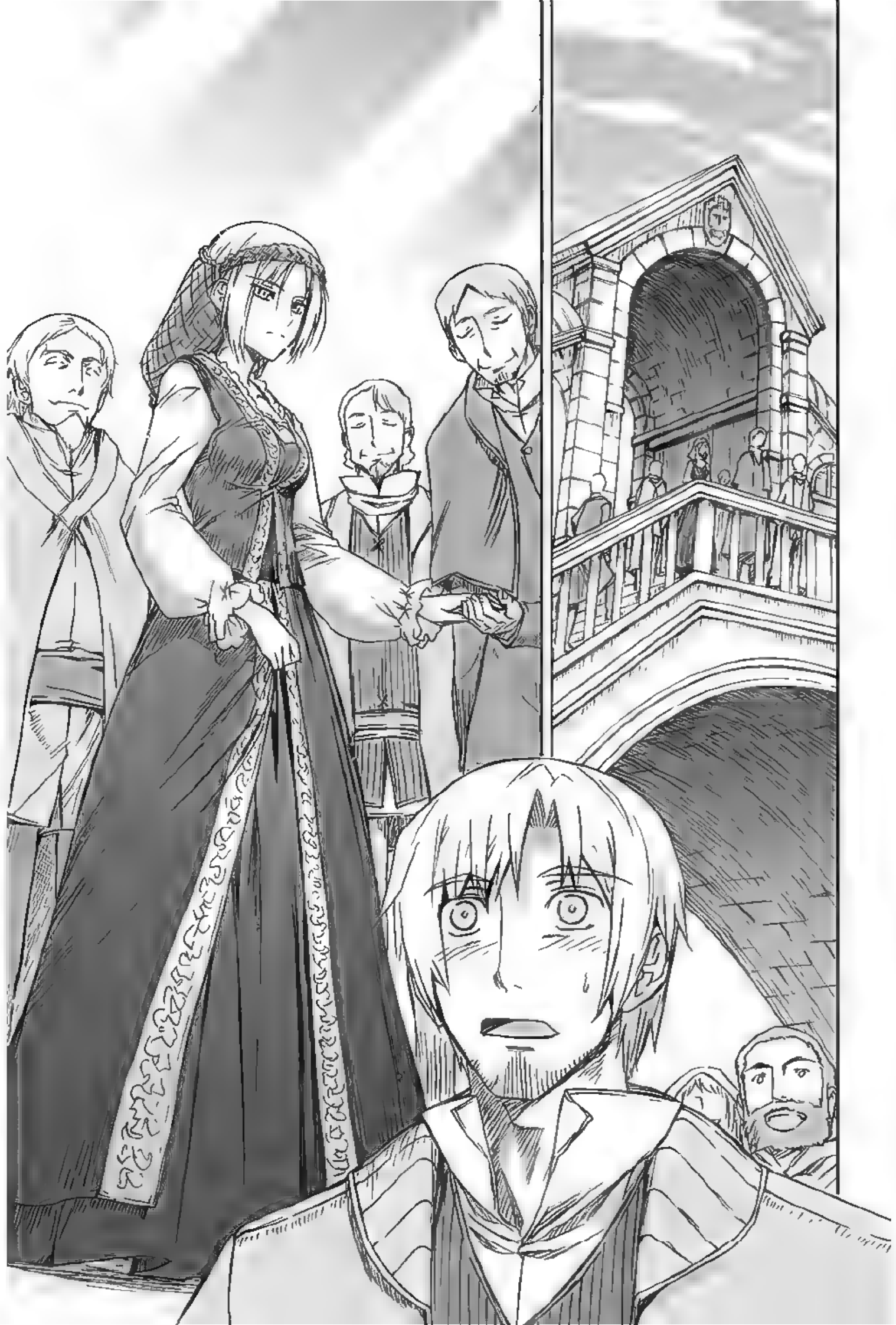
!



GAYA  
(CHATTER)

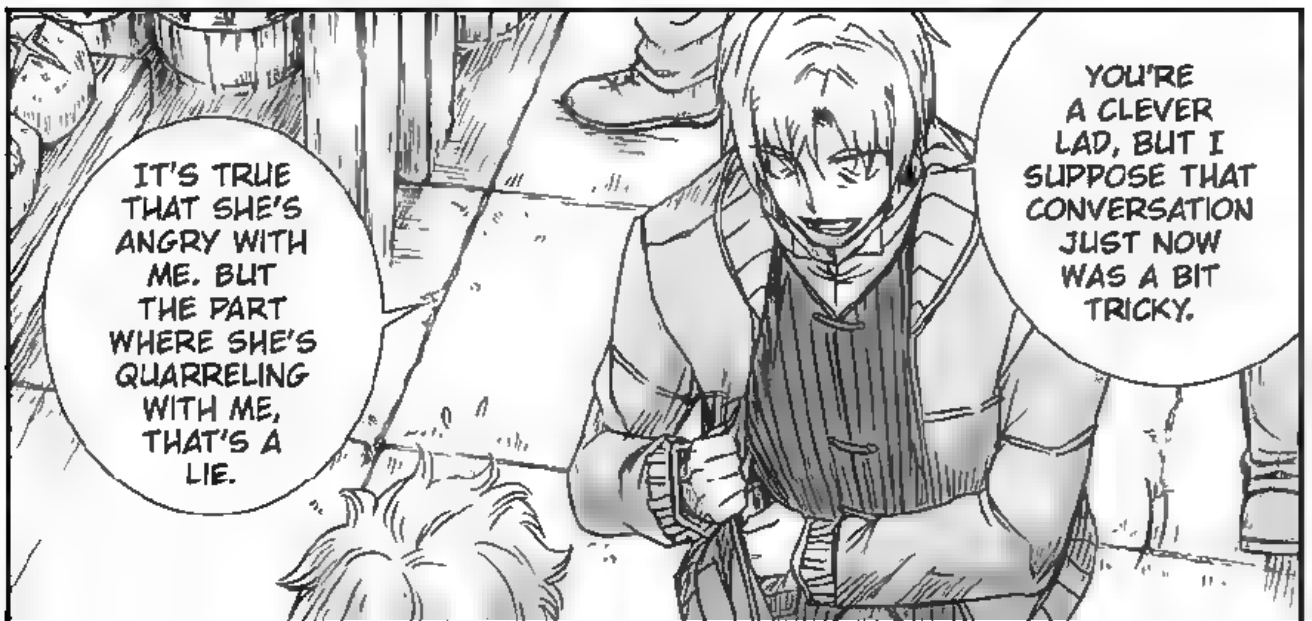
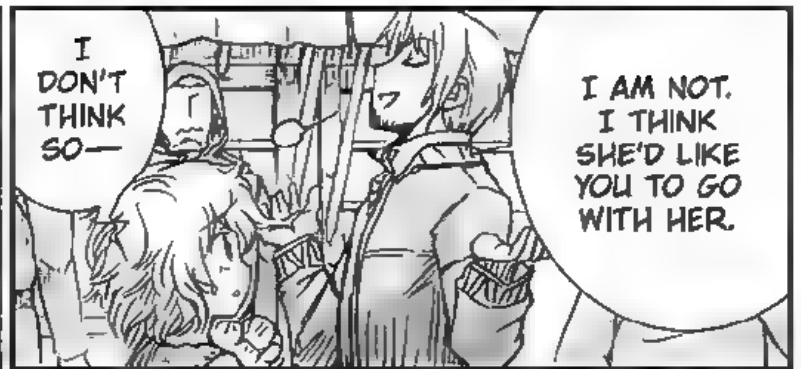
...THE  
DECISIONS OF  
THE MEETING  
MUST BE  
RATHER  
IMPORTANT.  
SO IT MAKES  
SENSE FOR IT  
TO DRAW A  
CROWD.

A  
MEETING,  
EH...? IF  
THEY'RE  
HOLDING  
IT IN  
SUCH A  
VISIBLE  
LOCA-  
TION...

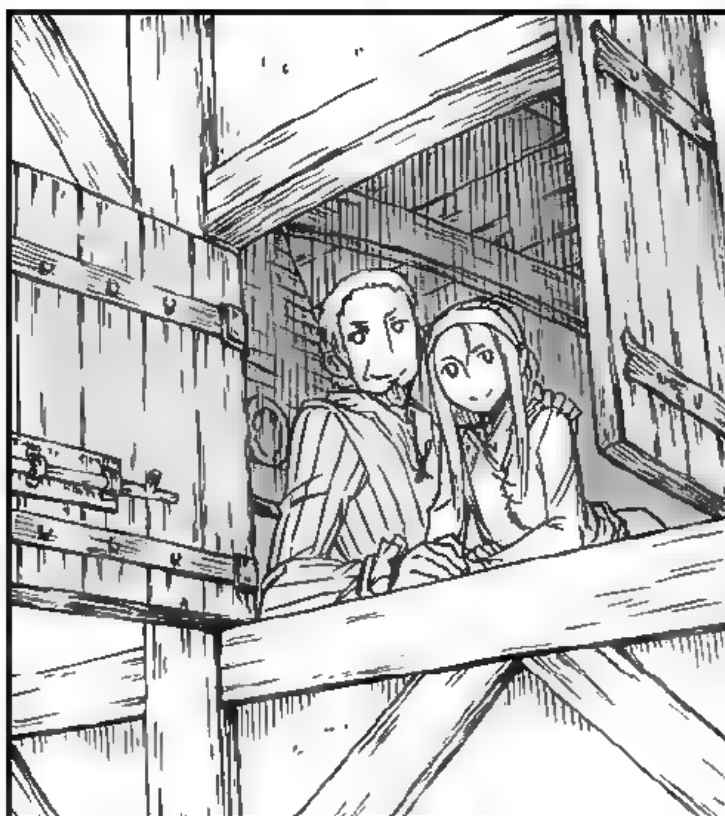
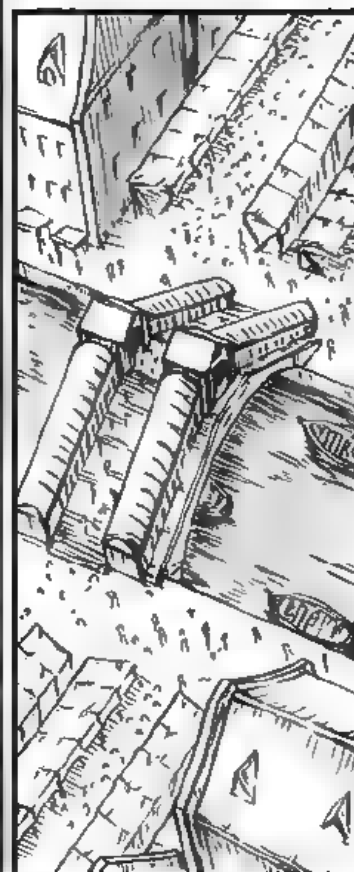






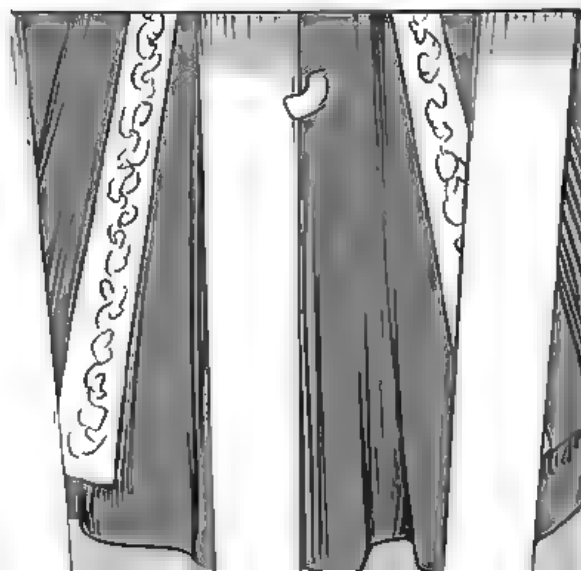


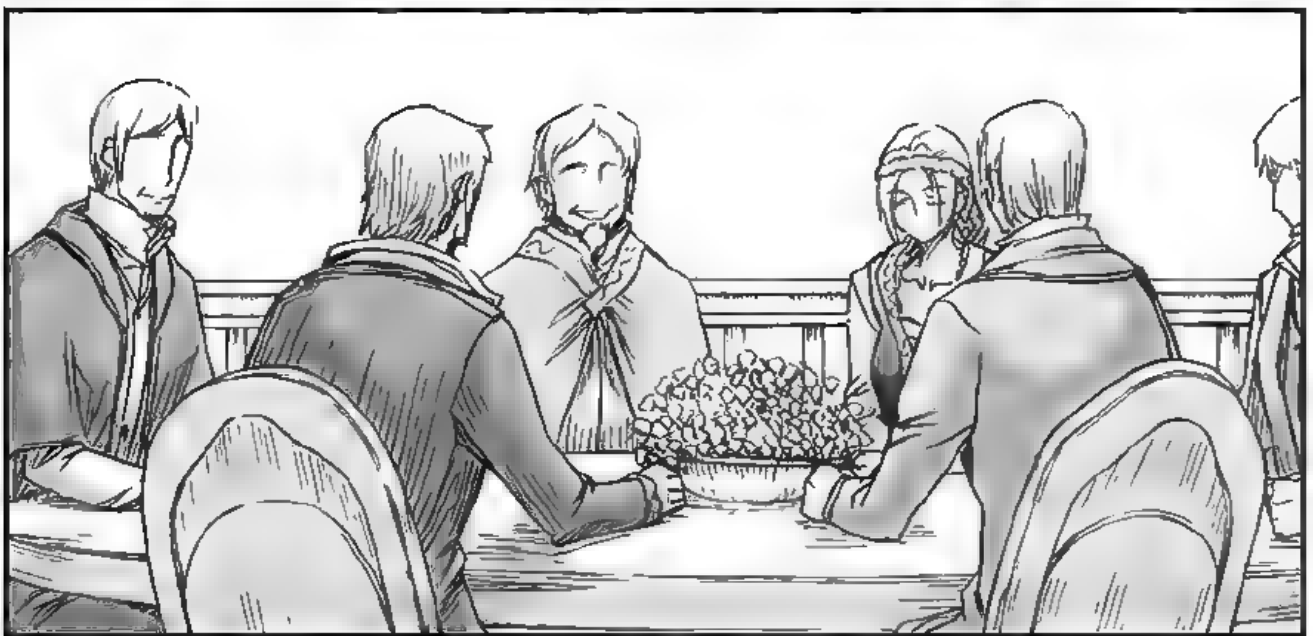
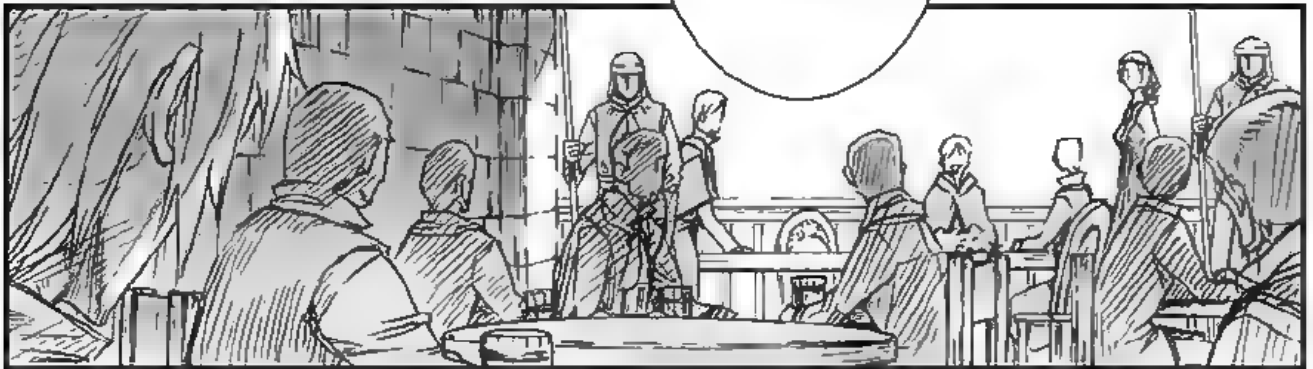






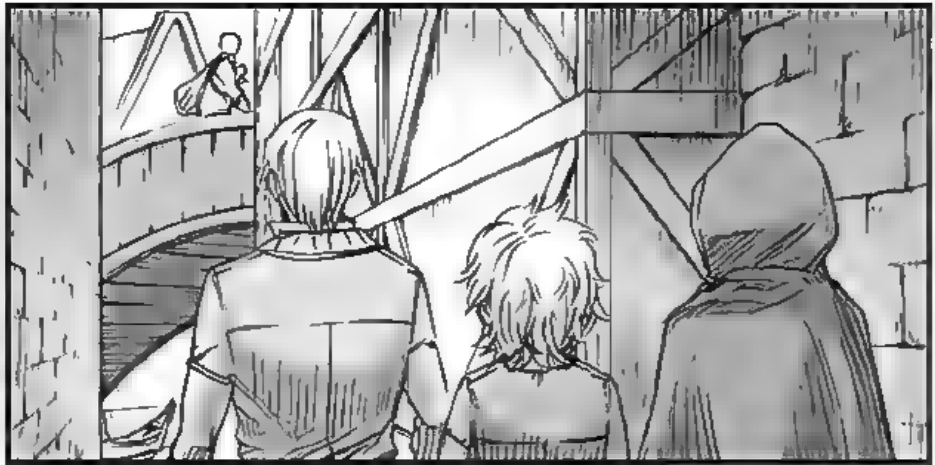




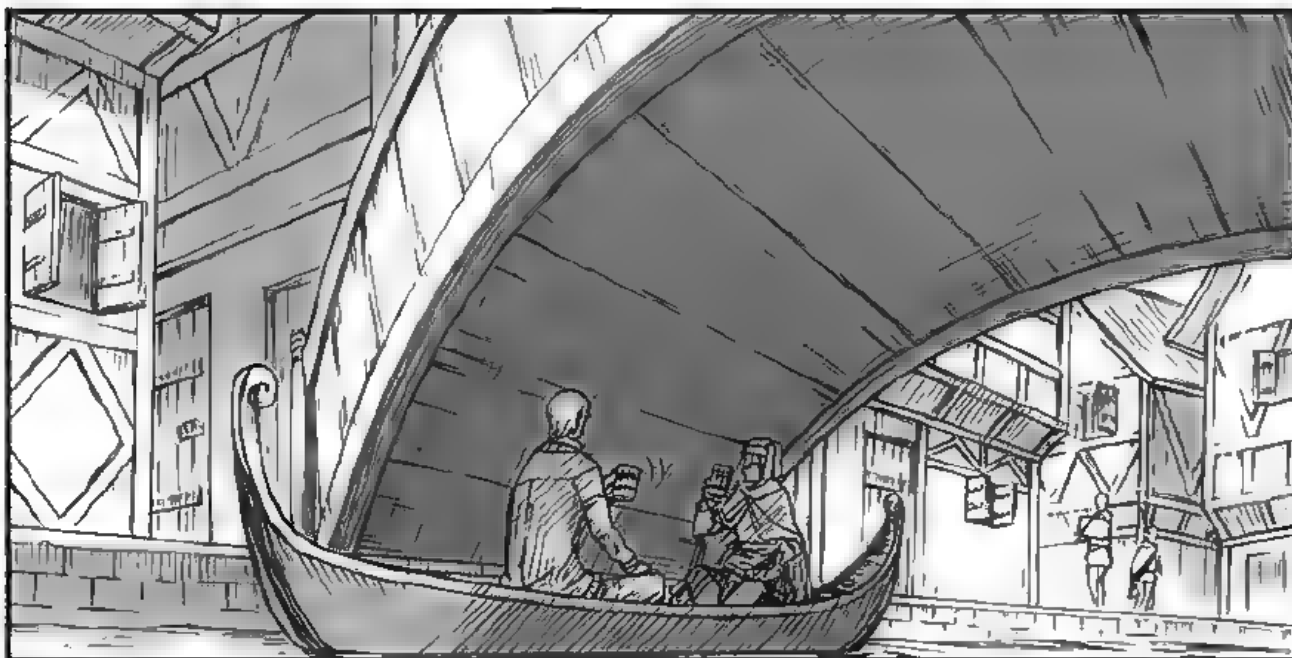


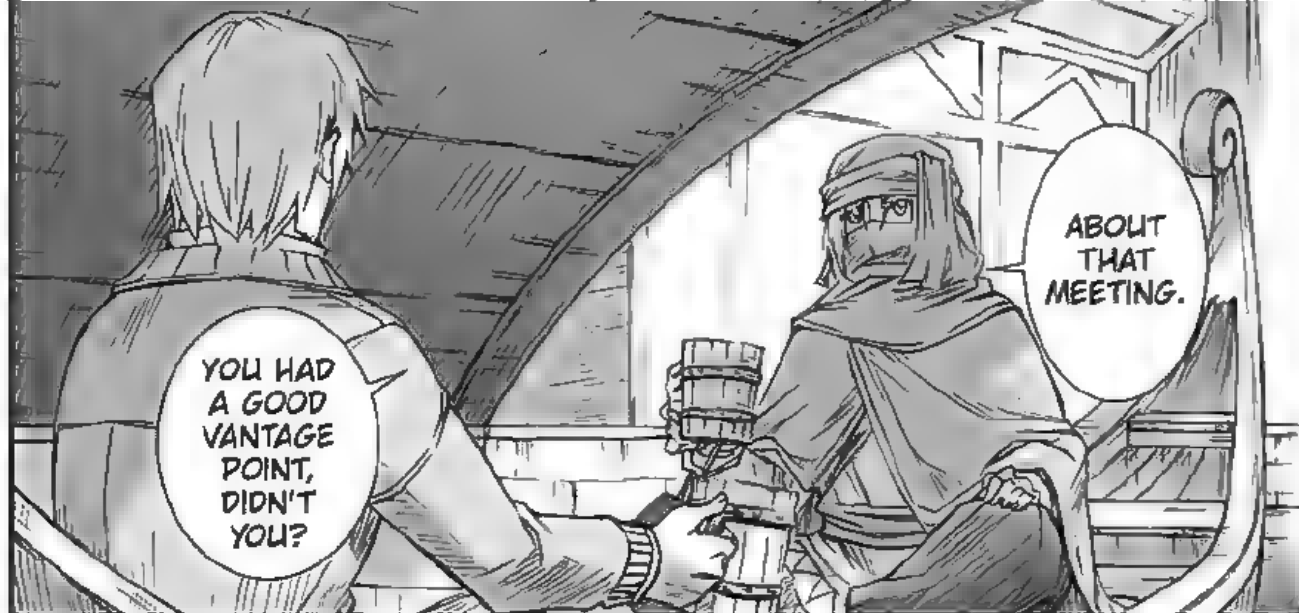






# SPICE & WOLF







DON'T YOU  
THINK?

A MEETING'S  
CONCLUSION  
ALWAYS  
COMES  
FROM  
SOMEWHERE  
OUTSIDE  
THE PAR-  
TICIPANTS.

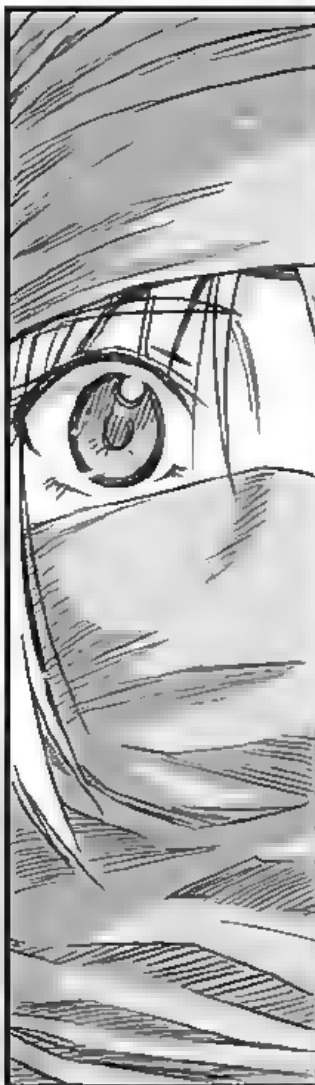


NOT TO  
PUT TOO  
FINE A  
POINT  
ON IT.



YOU WERE  
QUITE LOVELY  
IN THE OPEN  
LIKE THAT...  
BUT THEY'VE  
ENTRUSTED  
THEIR UNDER-  
THE-TABLE  
DEALINGS TO  
YOU AS WELL,  
I HEAR?







THE TRUTH  
IS, I WAS  
RATHER  
MELANCHOLY  
ABOUT HAVING  
BEEN SUMMONED  
BY THAT LOT.

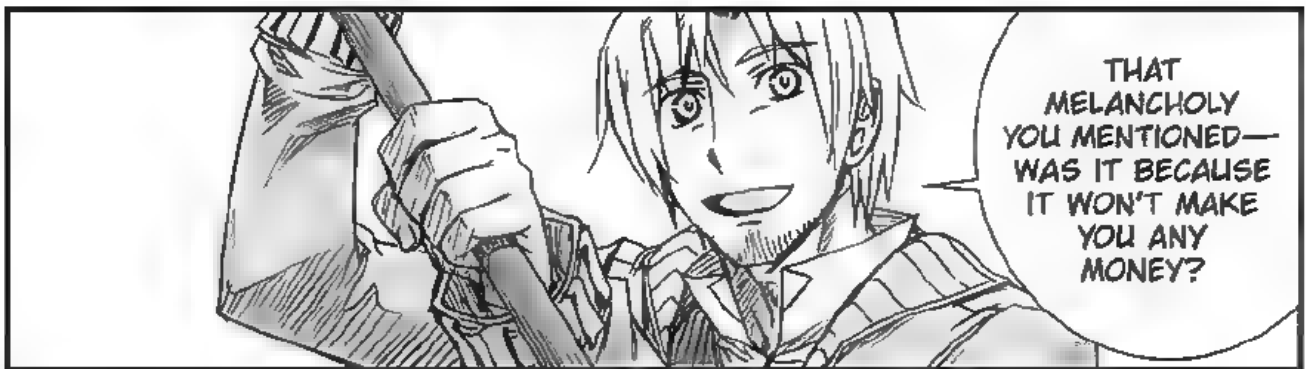


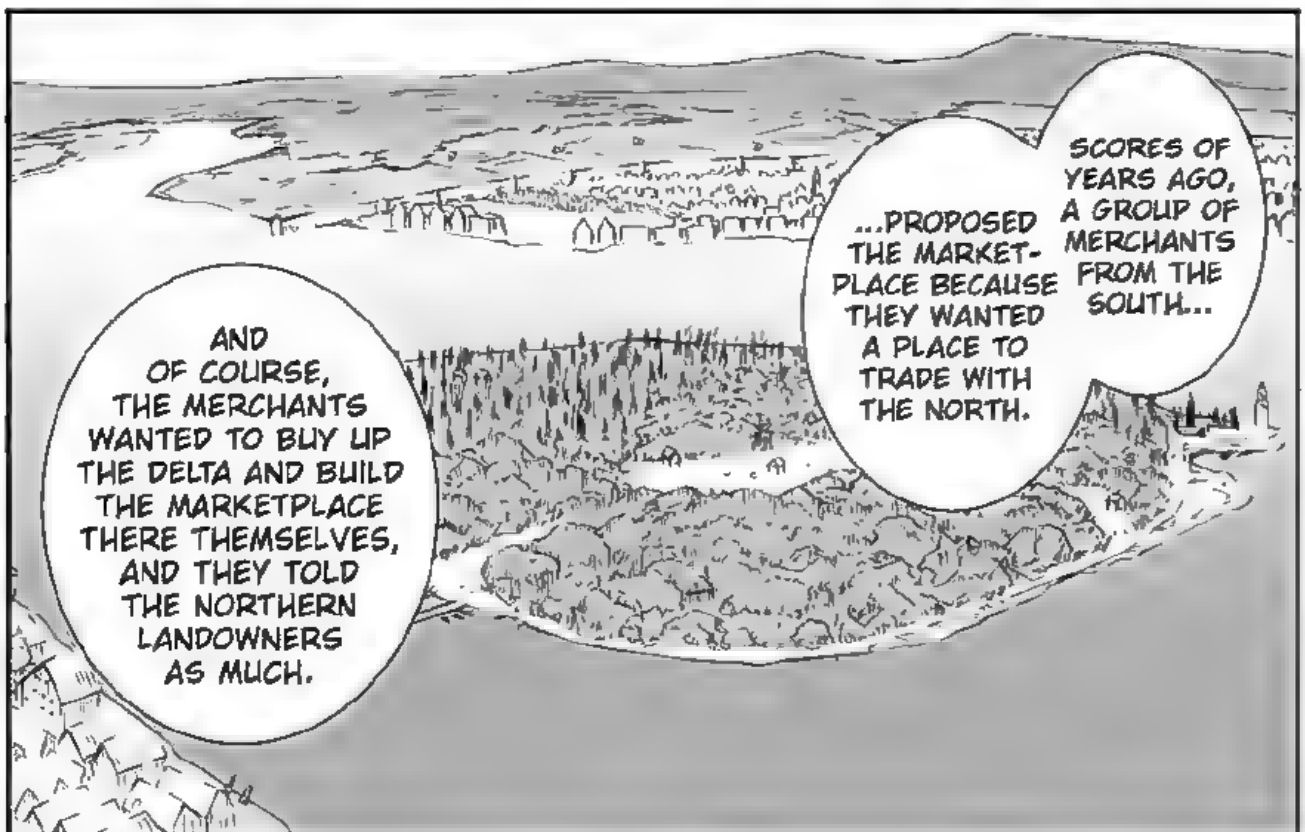
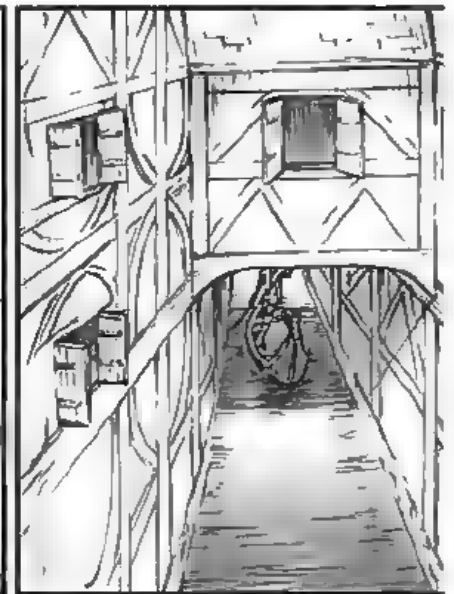
I'LL ROW,  
THEN.

ゴト  
(THUNK)

I WAS  
RIGHT TO  
SPOT YOU  
AND CALL  
YOU OVER.











SO THEY  
BRAGGED  
THEY WOULD  
CONSTRUCT  
THEIR OWN  
MARKET.

THEY  
THOUGHT  
THAT IF  
THEY SOLD  
THE LAND,  
IT WOULD  
BE A HUGE  
LOSS.

...HOWEVER,  
THE LAND-  
OWNERS  
WERE A  
LITTLE  
SHORT ON  
WISDOM.

—EVEN  
IF IT DROVE  
THEM INTO  
A DEEP  
DEBT.



YES.

THE MEN AT  
THE MEETING  
ARE THE  
SONS OF THE  
ONES WHO  
BORROWED  
THE MONEY  
AND THOSE  
WHO LENT  
IT.



GULP  
(GULP)

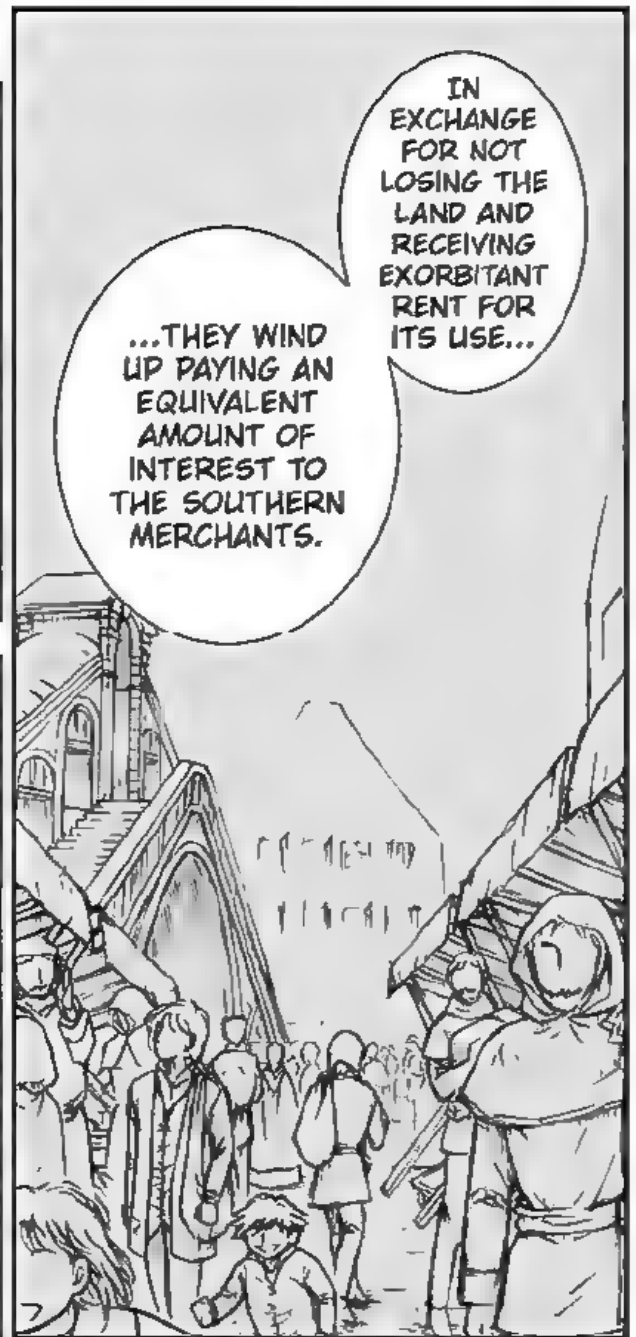


I SEE...  
THE LAND-  
HOLDERS  
WERE  
FROM THE  
NORTH.

THE  
MONEY-  
LENDERS  
WERE  
FROM THE  
SOUTH?



OF COURSE, THE LANDOWNERS CAN'T HIDE THEIR IRRITATION AT THIS AND ARE CONSTANTLY LOOKING FOR A WAY OUT.



...THEY WIND UP PAYING AN EQUIVALENT AMOUNT OF INTEREST TO THE SOUTHERN MERCHANTS.

IN EXCHANGE FOR NOT LOSING THE LAND AND RECEIVING EXORBITANT RENT FOR ITS USE...



BUT THEY HAVEN'T FOUND ONE...



—SO, WHAT WILL THE SECOND GENERATION LOOK FOR NEXT?



THE  
ANSWER IS  
SIMPLE.

A SCAPE-  
GOAT.

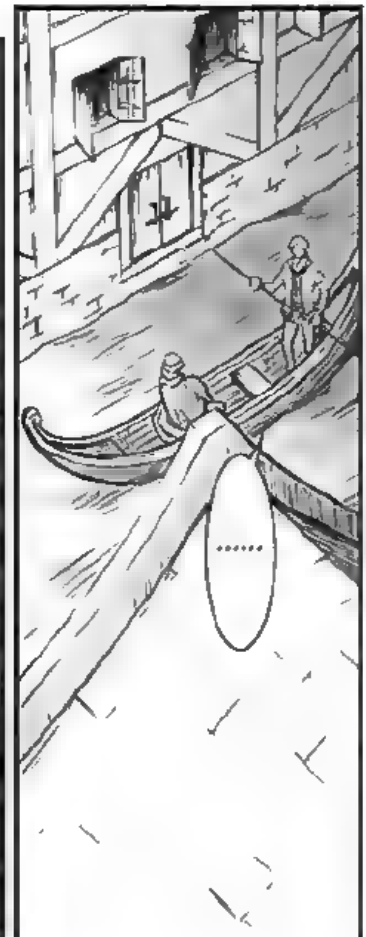


YES...  
IT WAS  
SHABBIER  
THAN I  
EXPECTED.



YOU SAW  
REYNOLDS'S  
PLACE,  
DIDN'T  
YOU?

STILL,  
I DON'T  
HAVE A  
MONOPOLY  
ON MIS-  
FORTUNE.

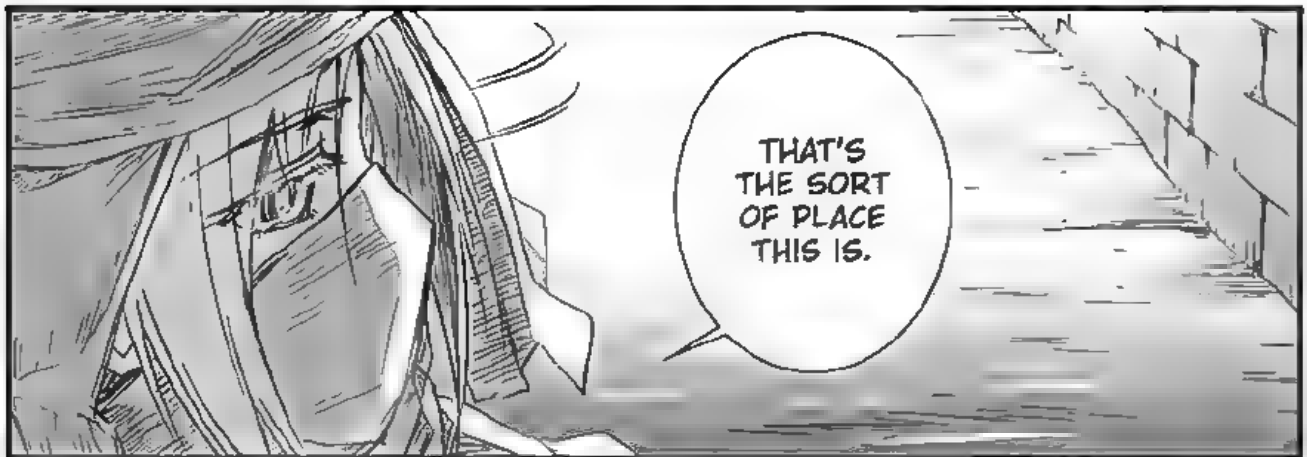


...BUT EVEN  
A PLACE THAT  
DEALS ONLY  
IN COPPER  
EXPORTS HAS  
ITS PROFIT  
SWALLOWED  
UP BY THE  
POWERS  
THAT BE.



KUH!  
KUH!

AT LEAST BE  
A LITTLE MORE  
CIRCUMSPECT  
ABOUT IT!



THAT'S  
THE SORT  
OF PLACE  
THIS IS.

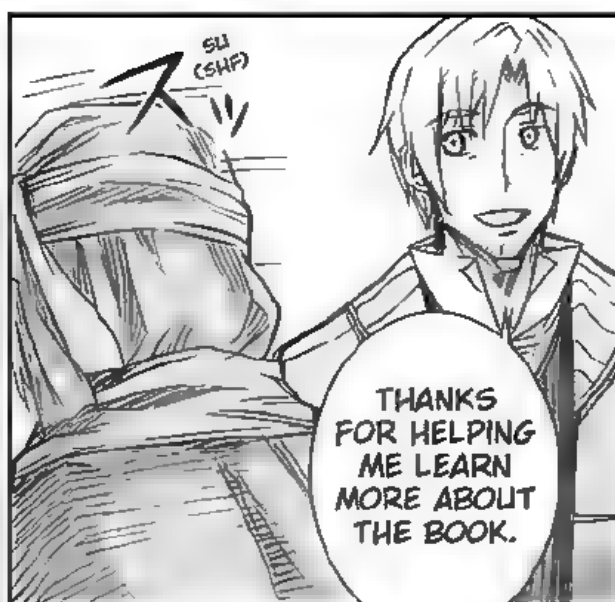
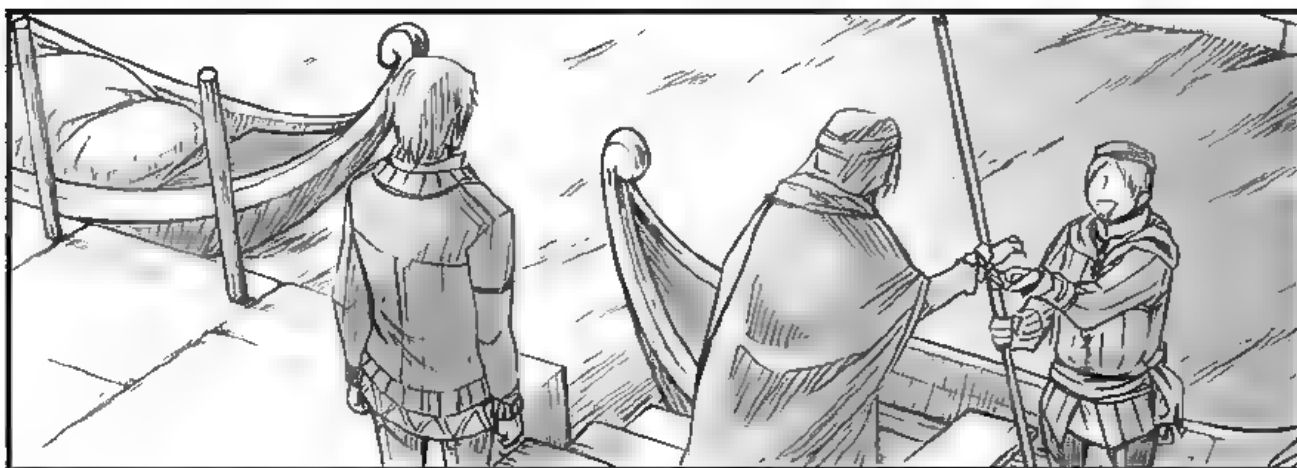


HO  
THERE!

AH,  
IT'S  
THE  
BOAT-  
MAN.





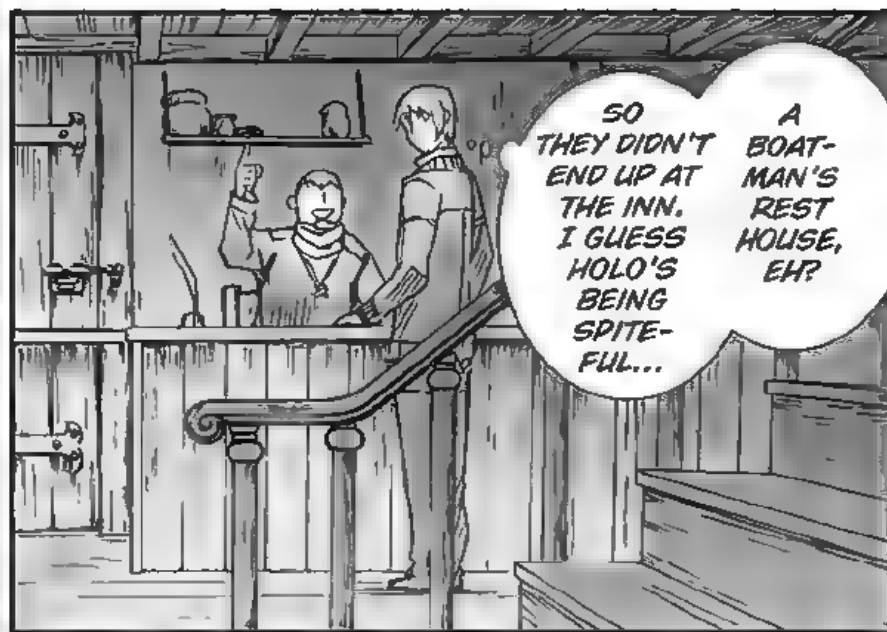


SPICE & WOLF













DID  
YOU HEAR  
MORE ABOUT  
THAT VIXEN'S  
CIRCUM-  
STANCES?



HA  
(GASP)



'TIS  
WRITTEN  
ALL OVER  
YOUR  
FACE.

AYE.

GOSHI

GOSHI  
(RUB)



—DOES IT  
LOOK LIKE  
I DID?



YOU'RE A  
CENTURY TOO  
YOUNG TO TRY  
LYING TO ME.



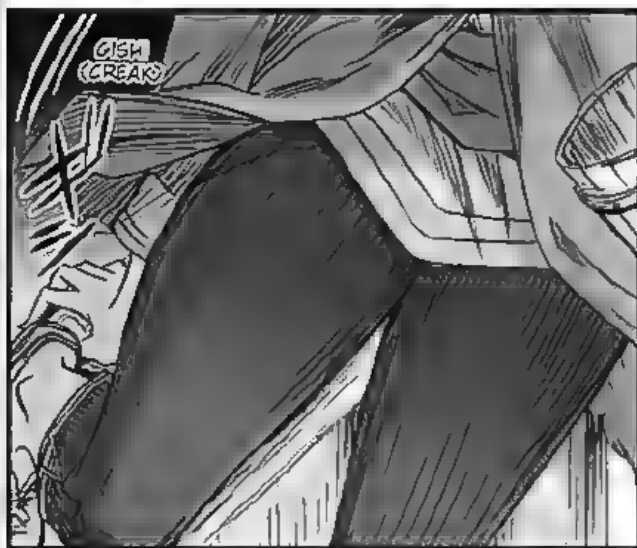
... 'TIS  
A BIT  
COLD.

GYUMU  
(SHOVE)



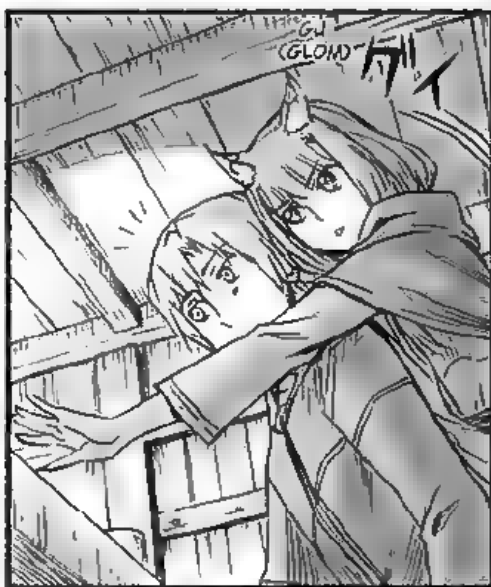
IF YOU'RE  
TRIPPED UP  
BY SUCH A  
RUSE, YOU'VE  
MUCH TO  
LEARN YET.

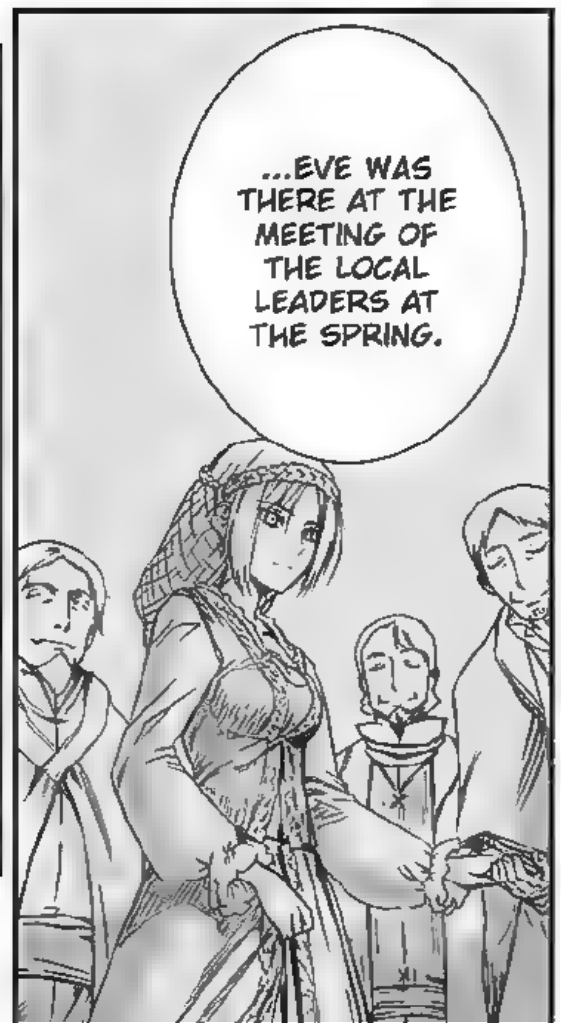
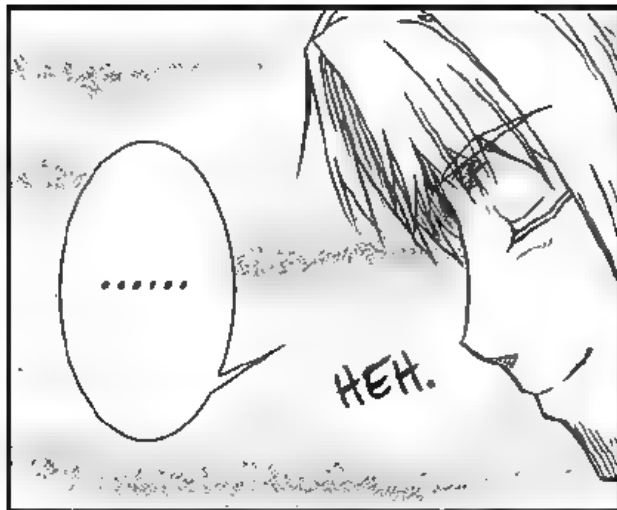
I'LL  
KEEP THAT  
IN MIND.



GISH  
(CREAK)









LISTEN  
HERE,  
YOU.

?

GISHI  
(GLENCH)



IF A  
MERCHANT  
LIKE HER CAN  
BE TREATED  
LIKE THAT...

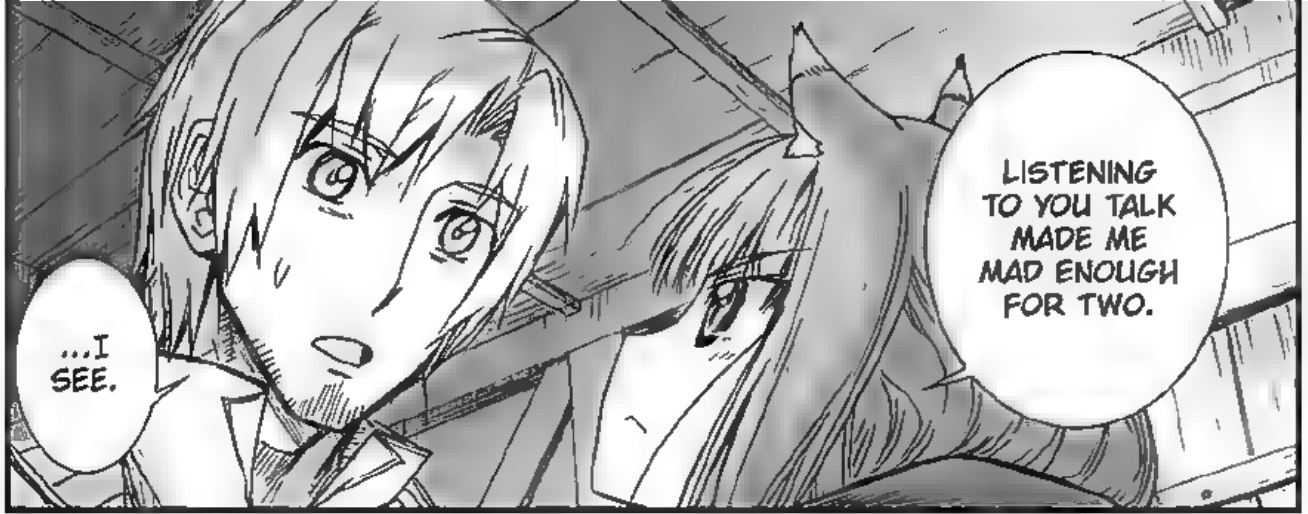


...IT  
MAKES ME  
WONDER  
WHAT'LL  
BECOME  
OF ME...



—AND IT'S  
JUST...

...SAD.



...I  
SEE.

LISTENING  
TO YOU TALK  
MADE ME  
MAD ENOUGH  
FOR TWO.



FIRSTLY...

...BY YOUR  
REASONING,  
I'M A PATHETIC  
FOOL FOR  
BEING YOUR  
COMPANION.

BAFU  
(FLUMP)



BUT NOW  
LOOKING AT  
YOUR FACE,  
I'M THRICE  
ANGRY.

GATA  
(CLATTER)



WELL,  
YOU EAT  
ENOUGH  
FOR FIVE,  
SO YOU'VE  
GOT TWO  
LEFT TO  
GO—

UGH  
...

GATA  
(WHOO)



AND AS  
FOR THE  
LAST...

GISH!  
(CREAK)




I WON'T  
ARGUE.




WHAT  
ARE YOU,  
A PUP?

SECONDLY,  
DESPAIRING  
AT SUCH  
A FOOLISH  
NOTION?



...WHEN  
ON YOUR  
FACE—!?

...MY  
FACE?



...TO SEE  
YOU TURN  
TAIL AND  
BEHAVE IN A  
MANNER SO  
UNBECOMING  
A FULL-  
GROWN  
MALE...





...YOUR  
FACE SAYS  
YOU COULD  
GO OFF ON  
YOUR OWN  
AT ANY  
MOMENT.

YOU SPEAK  
OF SUCH  
WEAKNESS,  
AND YET...



BUT IF I LOOKED AS  
THOUGH I COULDN'T  
CONTINUE ON ALONE,  
YOU'D RAIL AT ME  
WITHOUT MERCY,  
WOULD YOU NOT?

.....



I'D JUST AS  
SOON AVOID  
THAT...

NATU-  
RALLY, I  
WOULD!

I'D RAIL  
AT YOU,  
TOY WITH  
YOU, AND  
TEASE  
YOU!





AND I  
AM TIRED  
OF IT.

GYUW  
(HUG)



AND FOR  
LONG AGES,  
I COULDN'T  
LOOK BACK.



WHEN  
PEOPLE  
ARE  
STRONG,  
THEY DO  
NOT LOOK  
BACK.



.....YOU  
KNOW THAT  
I'M A COWARD,  
DON'T YOU?



EVEN WHEN  
CONFESSING  
HER WEAKNESS,  
THE WISEWOLF  
OF YOITSU  
DOES SO IN  
GRAND  
FORM.



SO  
DON'T  
WORRY  
ON THAT  
COUNT.

I'M  
CONSTANTLY  
LOOKING  
OVER MY  
SHOULDER,  
TERRIFIED.



.....  
REALLY,  
NOW.

I'M  
TIRED  
OF THAT  
TOO!



.....STILL,  
DON'T YOU  
THINK IT'S  
STRANGE?



AT  
SOME POINT,  
I SEEM TO  
HAVE BECOME  
THE ONE WHO  
COMFORTS  
YOU.

'TIS MY  
PARTICULAR  
PRIVILEGE,  
THAT IS  
WHY!



HONESTLY  
.....





...I  
HATE THAT  
THINGS ARE  
CHANGED LEFT  
AND RIGHT  
WITHOUT MY  
THOUGHTS  
BEING  
SOLICITED.

DESPITE  
YOUR  
OFFERING  
TO ME...



A  
PRAYER  
FOR  
WHAT?



HA  
HA  
HA...

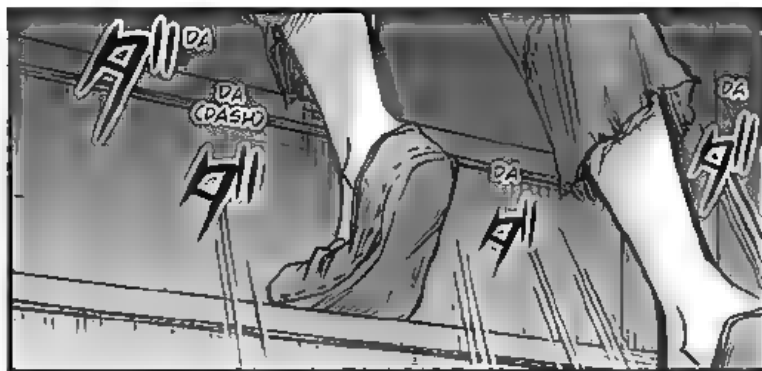
I SHOULD  
THINK ONE IS  
NECESSARY  
FOR PRAYER.



SO MY  
FEELINGS  
ARE AN  
OFFERING?



...OH,  
YOU.



THAT IT  
WILL BE A  
BIT LONGER  
BEFORE THE  
BOY COL  
RETURNS  
FROM  
SHOPPING.



AYE,  
I'M GLAD  
YOU'VE  
RETURNED.

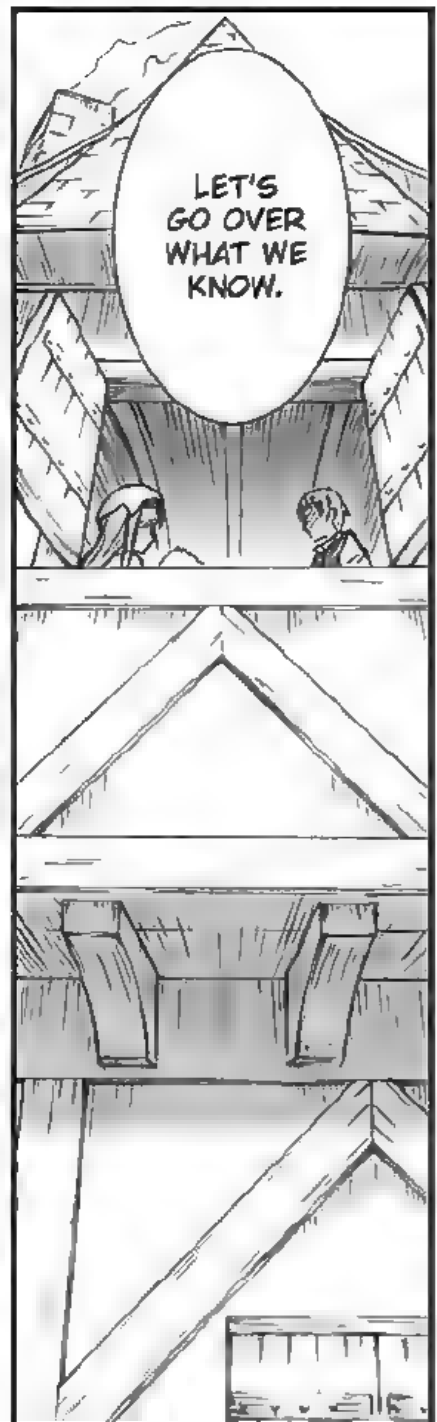
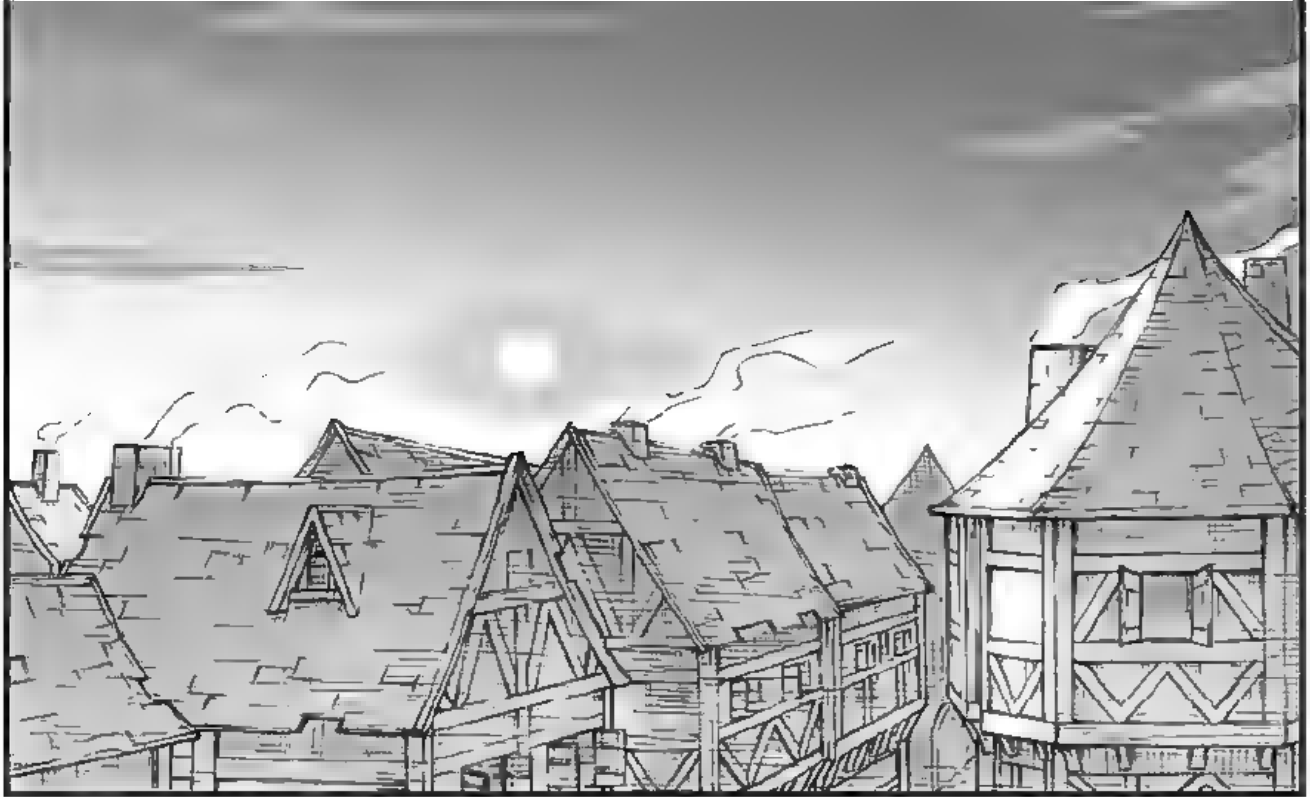
I'M  
BACK!

I'M GOOD!  
I'M GOOD!

I BOUGHT  
WINE FOR  
YOU TOO, MR.  
LAWRENCE!

WELL  
DONE,  
COL.







.....IT  
SEEMS  
NOT.



SO THAT  
VIXEN IS  
NOT SOME  
SORT OF  
EXCEPTION.



SO DOES  
SHE WANT  
TO USE YOU  
TO GET THE  
BEST OF MR.  
REYNOLDS,  
THEN?



GIVING ME  
A LETTER  
TO SHOW TO  
THE JEAN  
COMPANY WAS  
PROBABLY  
PART OF HER  
PLAN.



COULD YOU  
SHOW US  
ANY OF THE  
LETTERS  
RELATING TO  
AQUENT?

BUT  
WHAT YOU  
SAID BACK  
THERE MAY  
ACTUALLY  
BE BETTER  
FOR US,  
COL.



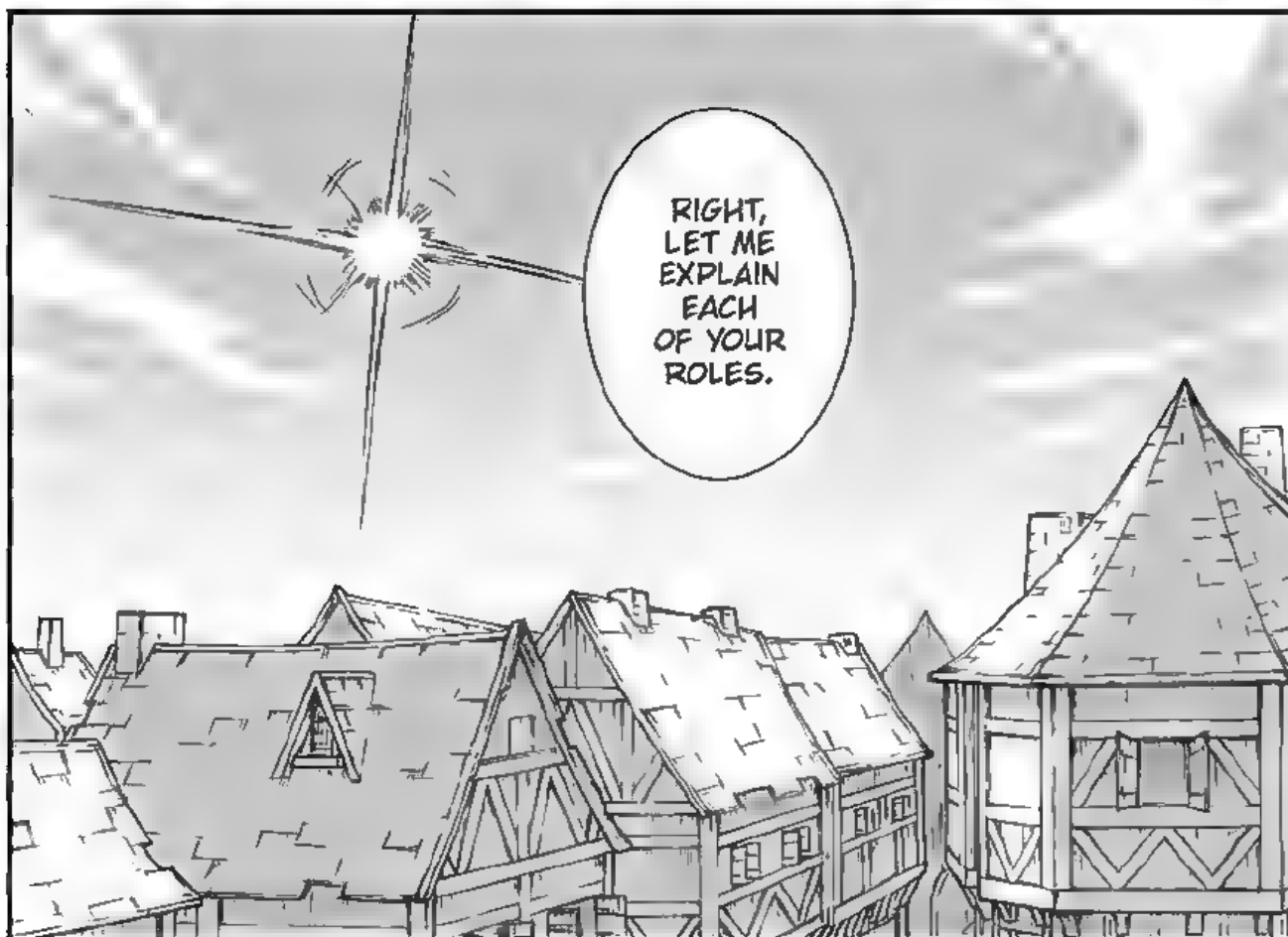
THAT'S  
SURELY WHAT  
REYNOLDS  
THINKS, SO  
HE'LL BE ON  
GUARD.

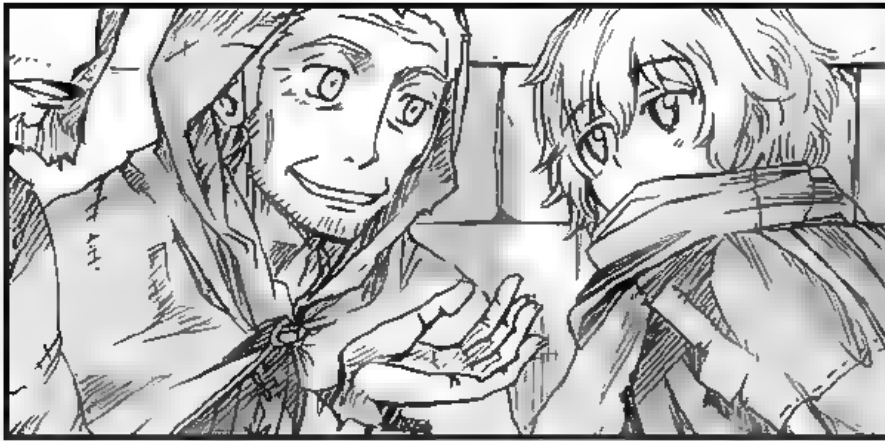


BECAUSE  
NO ONE IN  
THAT VIXEN'S  
EMPLOY WOULD  
JUST COME  
OUT AND SAY  
SOMETHING  
SO NAIVE.





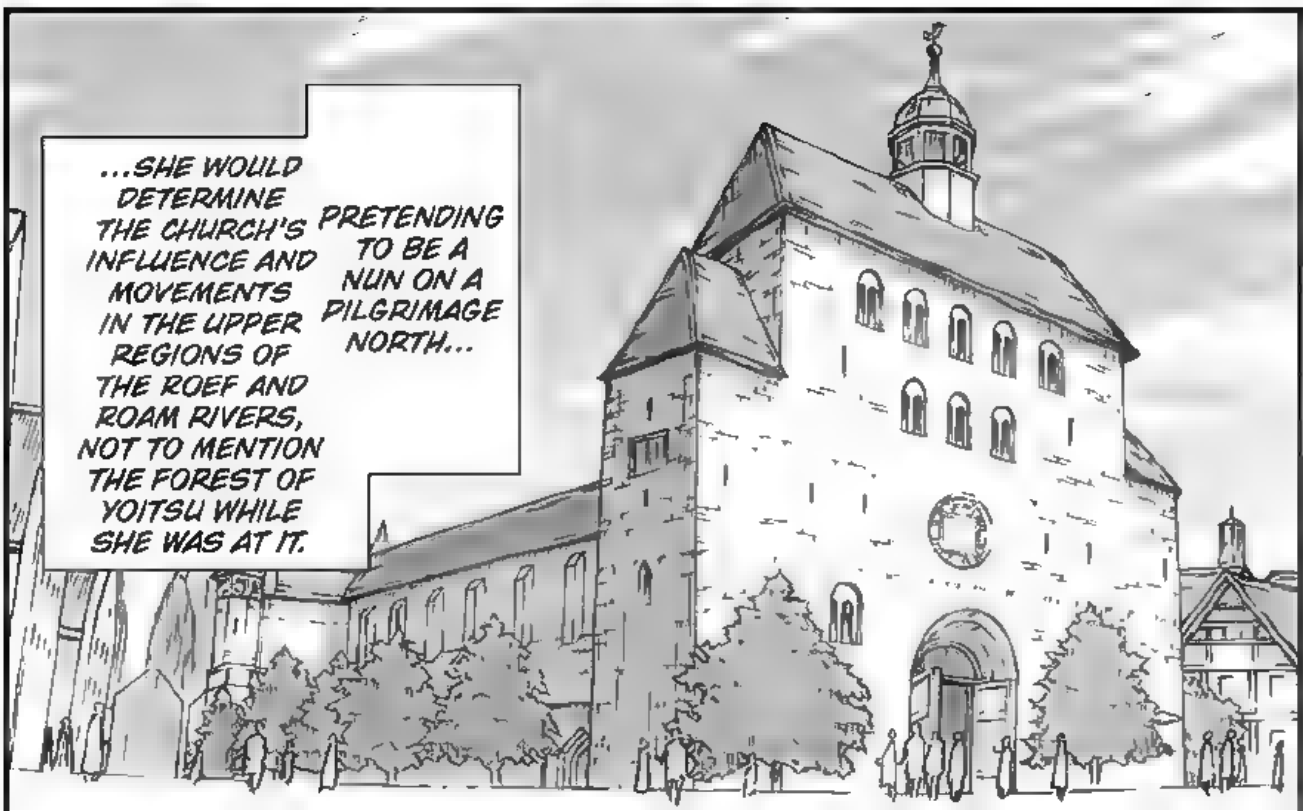




COL WOULD POSE  
AS A TRAVELING  
BEGGAR AND  
HEAD TO THE  
NORTH SIDE TO  
FIND OUT WHAT  
THE OTHER  
BEGGARS HAD TO  
SAY ABOUT THE  
JEAN COMPANY.

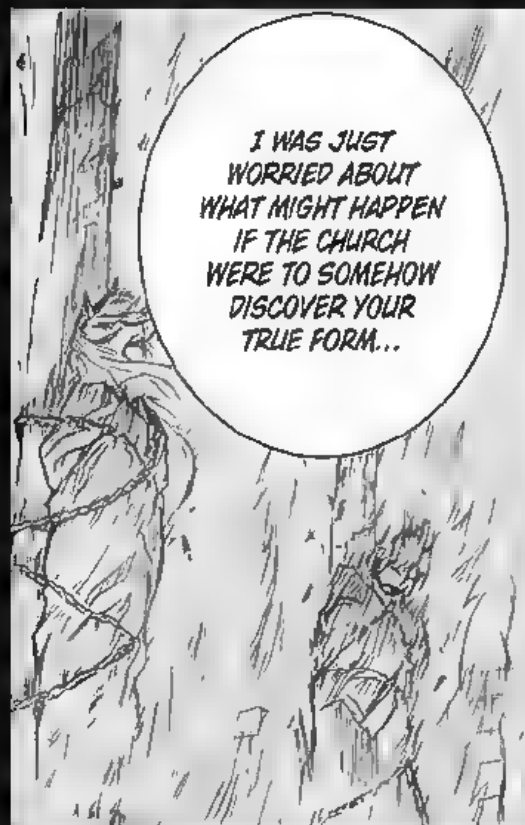


HOLLO WOULD  
MAKE FOR THE  
SOUTH-SIDE  
CHURCH.



...SHE WOULD  
DETERMINE  
THE CHURCH'S  
INFLUENCE AND  
MOVEMENTS  
IN THE UPPER  
REGIONS OF  
THE ROEF AND  
ROAM RIVERS,  
NOT TO MENTION  
THE FOREST OF  
YOITSU WHILE  
SHE WAS AT IT.

PRETENDING  
TO BE A  
NUN ON A  
PILGRIMAGE  
NORTH...





DO YOU  
THINK I'LL GO  
ON A DRUNKEN  
RAMPAGE  
THROUGH THE  
SANCTUARY?

HOW  
"SOMEHOW"  
DO YOU  
SUPPOSE?



GASU  
(SWUD)

YOU  
FOOL!



.....  
I CAN  
IMAGINE  
THAT  
ACTUALLY



RUL...ER?



PUL  
(FWIP)

YOU  
TRULY ARE  
A TERRIBLY  
CLUMSY  
RULER.



—I'M  
SORRY.

KOFF!



FIRSTLY...



YES, A  
TERRIBLY  
CLUMSY  
ONE!



I HAVEN'T THE  
FAINTEST NOTION  
WHY IT'S ME YOU  
WON'T LET GO  
ALONE IN THIS  
SITUATION.

...SOMETHING  
COULD JUST  
AS EASILY  
GO AWRY  
WITH COL.



LISTEN,  
YOU!

Y-YES  
...?

はっ  
BA  
(WHIFF)





THE HARDER  
USE YOU PUT  
US TO, THE  
EASIER OUR  
REINS WILL  
BE TO HOLD!

AND  
COL AND I  
ARE YOUR  
HANDS.



YOU.....  
ACTUALLY  
LIKE IT WHEN  
I COMPLIMENT  
YOU?



UGH!



YOU'RE  
THE GENERAL  
AWAITING OUR  
REPORTS, ARE  
YOU NOT?



SO  
THAT  
WAS  
IT...

IF SO,  
YOU'VE MUCH  
TO LEARN  
ABOUT USING  
OTHERS!

YOU WISH TO  
HAVE A SHOP  
OF YOUR OWN  
ONE DAY, DO  
YOU NOT?



THAT'S  
WHAT SO  
CHARMING  
ABOUT ME,  
RIGHT?



THANK  
YOU,  
HOLO.

AND YET YOU  
DARE TO TAKE  
HOLD OF MY  
REINS?



—GUESS  
I BETTER  
JUST DO  
MY BEST.



YOU'RE  
HOPE-  
LESS.

HUH  
...?

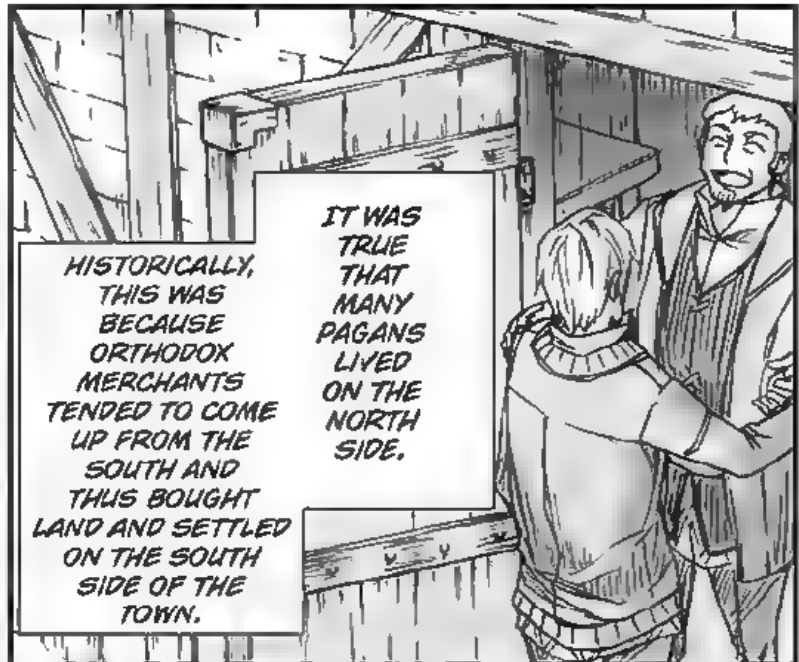
PERHAPS.

KERUBE HAD  
CHURCHES  
ONLY ON  
THE DELTA  
AND THE  
SOUTH SIDE.

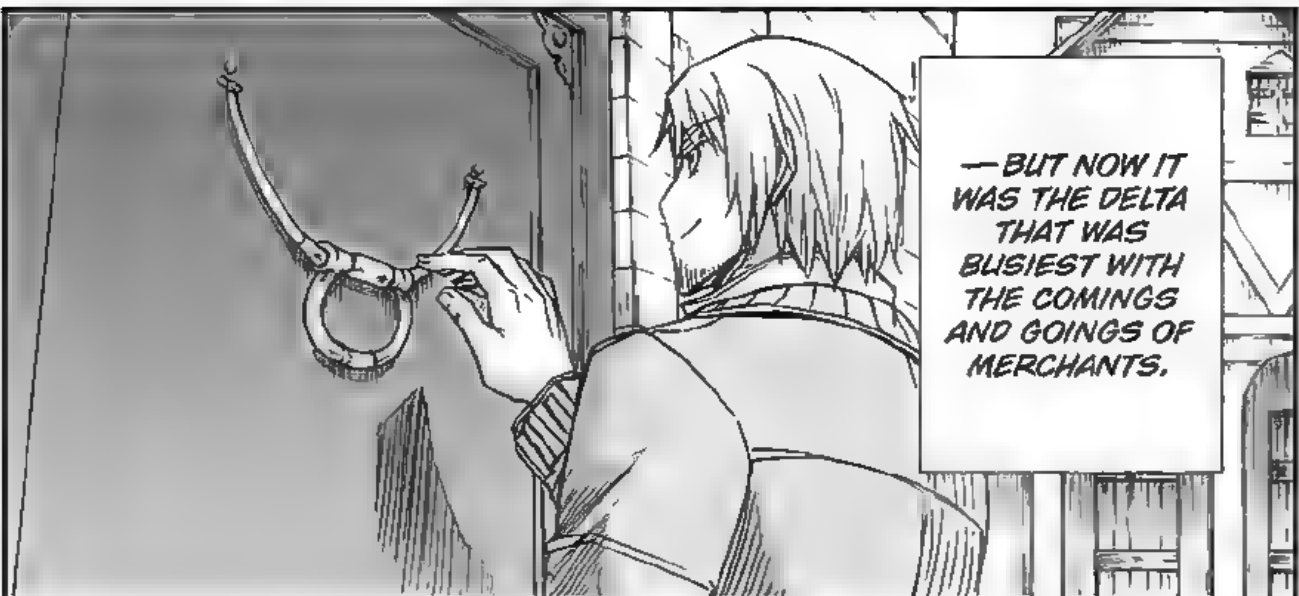


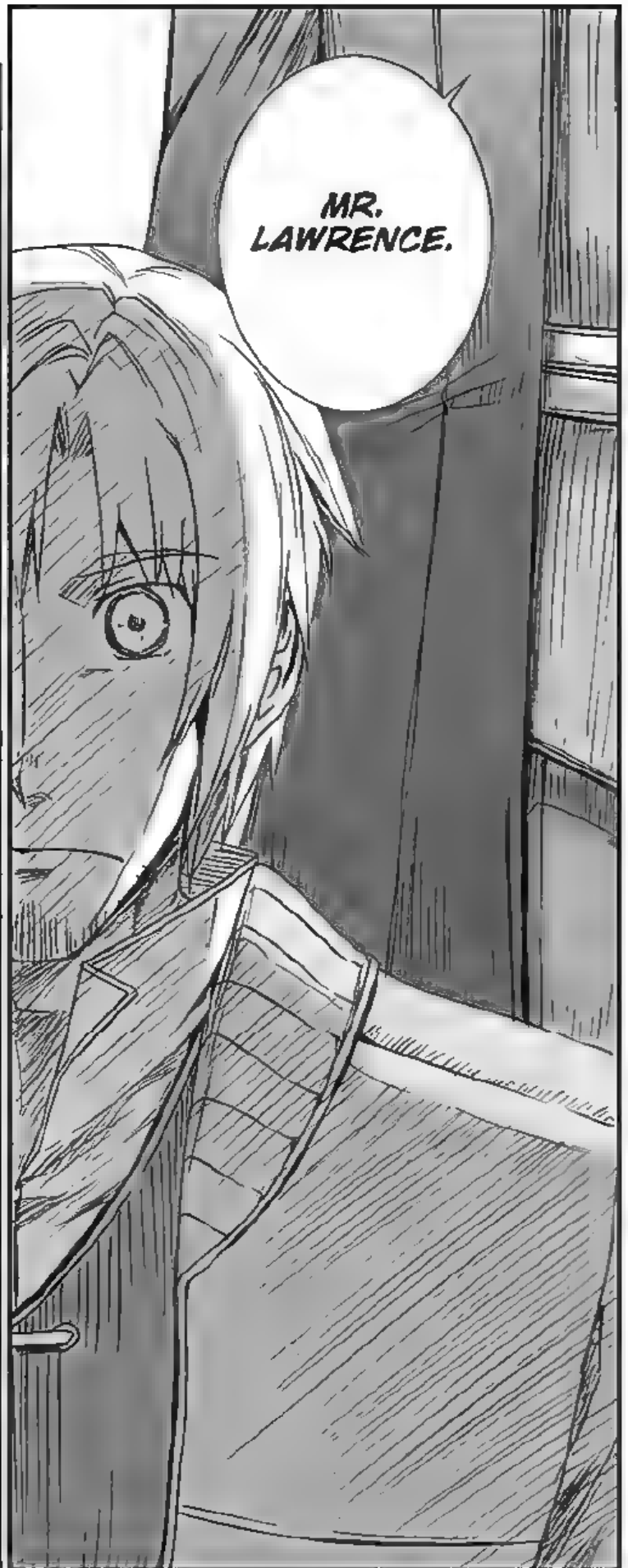
HISTORICALLY,  
THIS WAS  
BECAUSE  
ORTHODOX  
MERCHANTS  
TENDED TO COME  
UP FROM THE  
SOUTH AND  
THUS BOUGHT  
LAND AND SETTLED  
ON THE SOUTH  
SIDE OF THE  
TOWN.

IT WAS  
TRUE  
THAT  
MANY  
PAGANS  
LIVED  
ON THE  
NORTH  
SIDE.



— BUT NOW IT  
WAS THE DELTA  
THAT WAS  
BUSIEST WITH  
THE COMINGS  
AND GOINGS OF  
MERCHANTS.











OF COURSE  
THERE WERE  
GUILD MEMBERS  
THERE...  
DO THEY  
CARE WHAT I  
WAS PAYING  
ATTENTION  
TO?



YES,  
I SAW  
RATHER AN  
INTERESTING  
SHOW  
THERE.



FROM  
WHAT I HEARD,  
THE LANDOWNERS  
OF THE NORTH  
SIDE ARE SO  
MANY FISH,  
FLOPPING  
ABOUT ON  
LAND.

SO THERE'S  
A STING, IS  
THERE?

ONE NEVER KNOWS  
WHERE THE STING  
MAY BE LAID, EVEN  
IN A SEEMINGLY  
TRANSPARENT  
CONVERSATION.

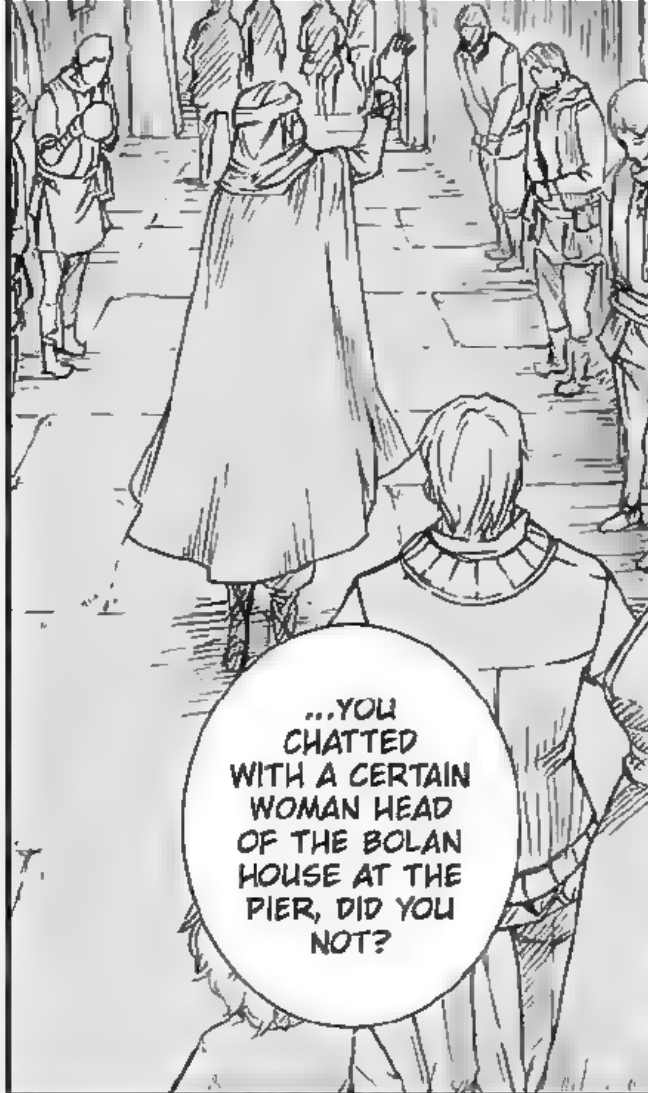
HEH-HEH-HEH.  
AN INTERESTING  
SHOW, INDEED,  
MR. LAWRENCE—  
MOST IMPRESSIVE.  
THOUGH A RATHER  
IMPENETRABLE  
DISPLAY,  
EVEN FOR A  
TRAVELING  
MERCHANT...



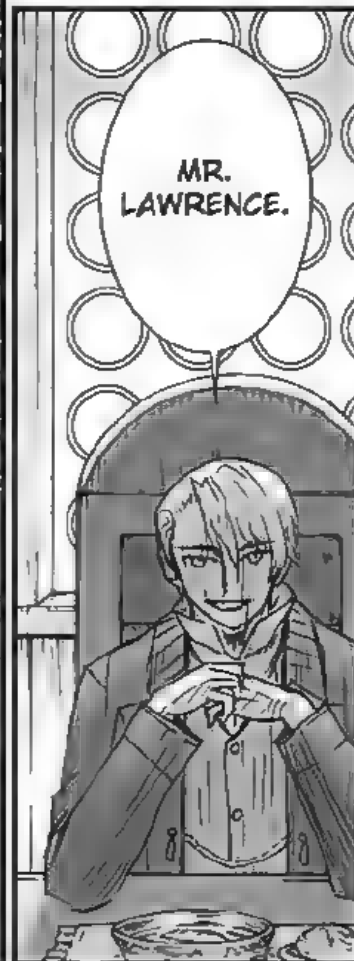
THAT  
WOULD BE  
TRUE...IF OUR  
OPPONENTS  
WERE ONLY  
THE LAND-  
OWNERS.



...SEEMS  
THERE'S  
BEEN A  
MISUNDER-  
STANDING.



...YOU  
CHATTED  
WITH A CERTAIN  
WOMAN HEAD  
OF THE BOLAN  
HOUSE AT THE  
PIER, DID YOU  
NOT?



MR.  
LAWRENCE.



THE  
HEAD OF  
THE BOLAN  
HOUSE...  
IS SHE  
NOBILITY?

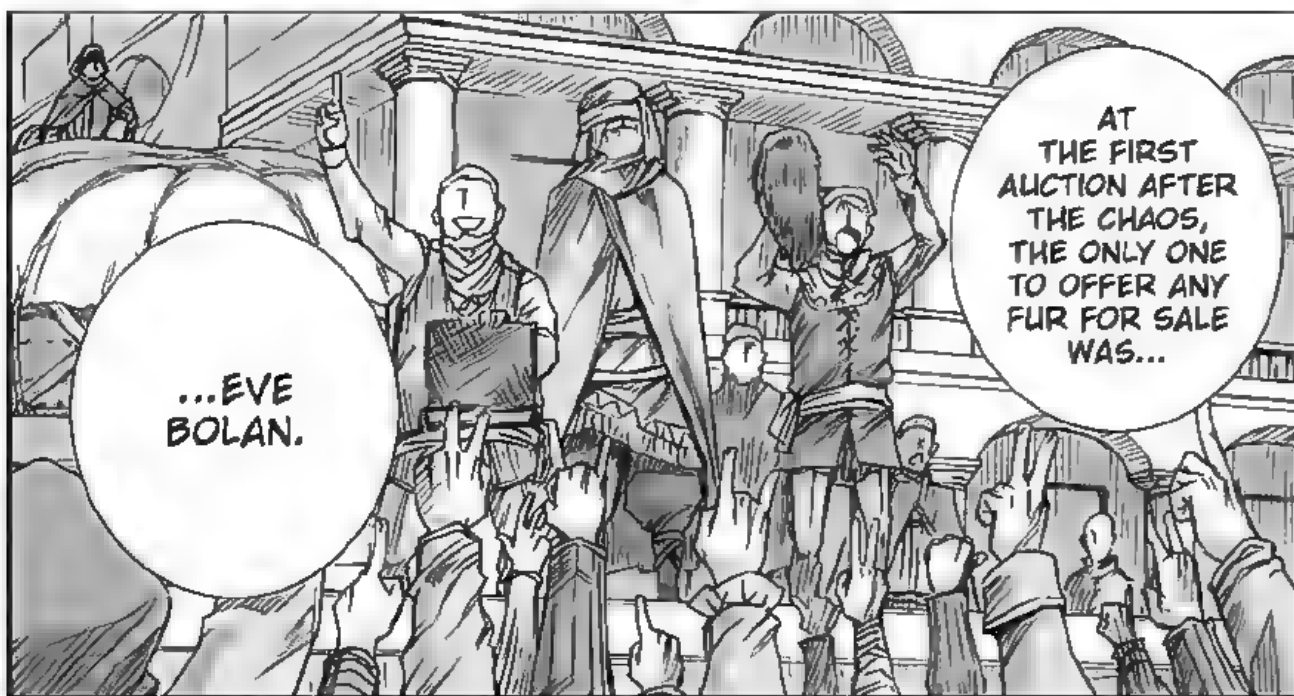
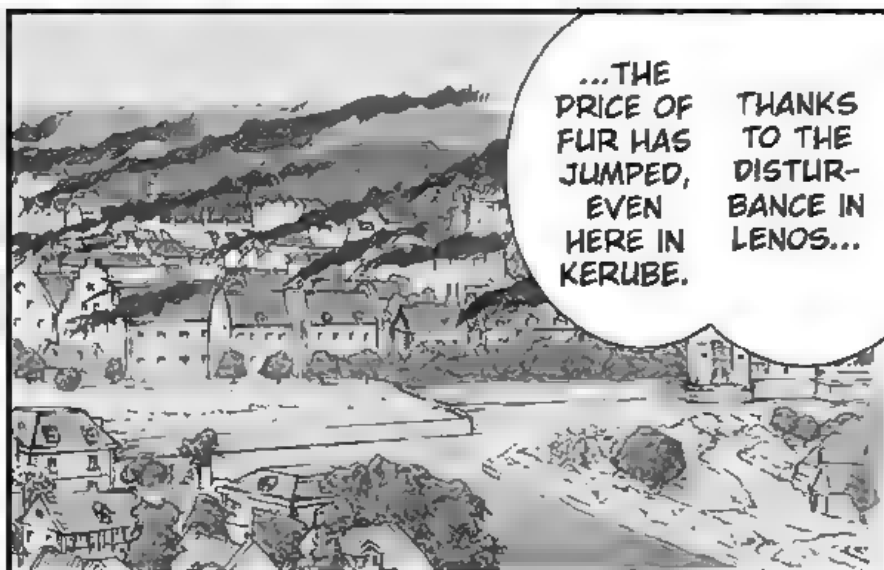
I MERELY  
HAPPEN TO  
BE STAYING  
AT THE  
SAME INN  
AS MISS  
EVE.

THIS IS  
WHAT I  
EXPECTED  
SO FAR...  
TERRIFYING  
THOUGH  
IT IS.



—AND  
HERE I WAS  
SO SURE  
YOU WERE  
INVOLVED IN  
THE MATTER  
OF THE  
FUR, MR.  
LAWRENCE.

I AM A  
TRAVELING  
MERCHANT,  
SO I'M  
OBVIOUSLY  
NOT HER  
DANCE  
PARTNER.



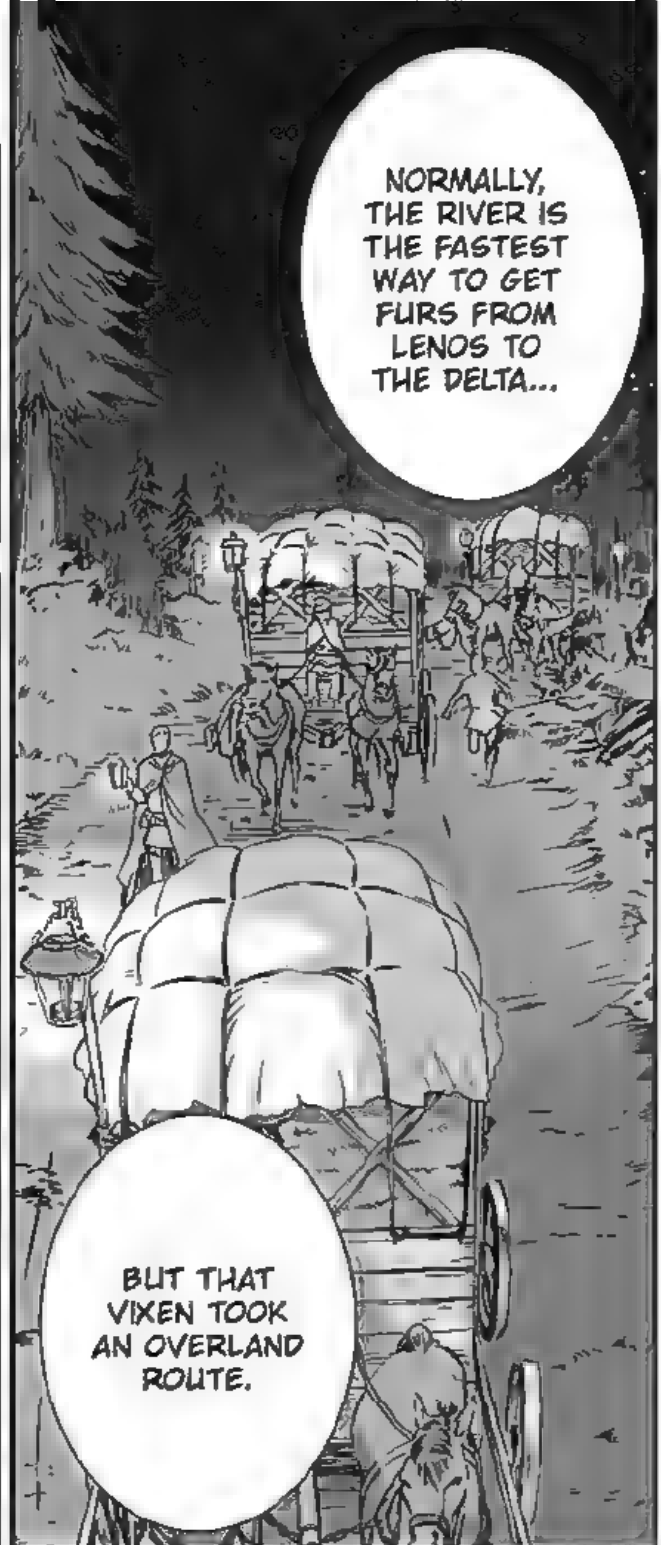


I SEE...



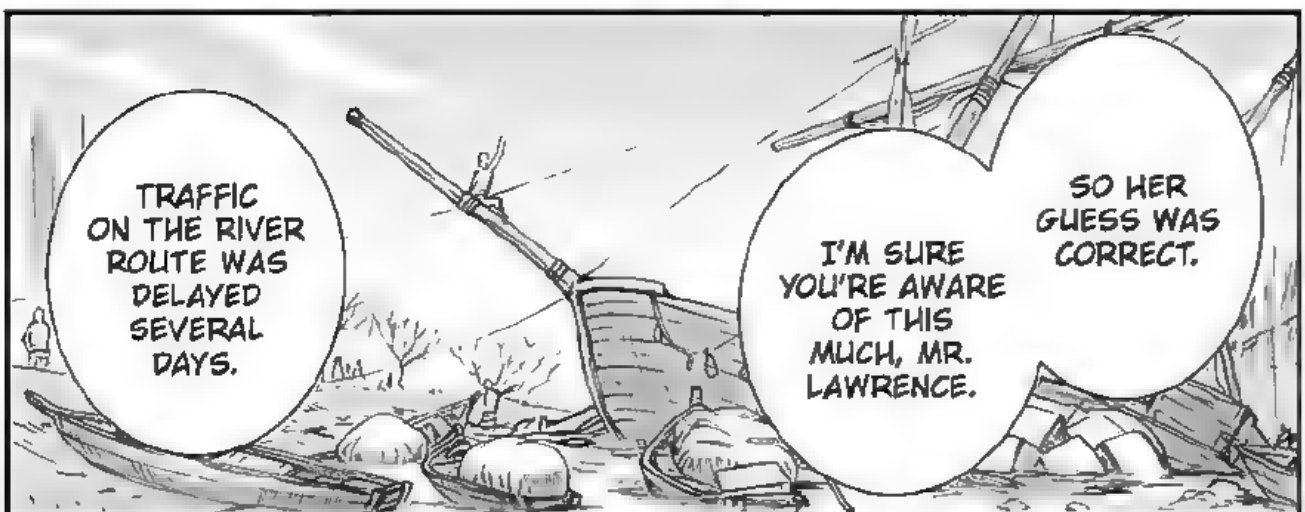
THE RIVER WAS PACKED WITH LARGE BOATS HEADED DOWNRIVER.

MANY OF THOSE WERE HELMED BY INEXPERIENCED SAILORS ASSEMBLED IN A HURRY.



NORMALLY, THE RIVER IS THE FASTEST WAY TO GET FURS FROM LENOS TO THE DELTA...

BUT THAT VIXEN TOOK AN OVERLAND ROUTE.



TRAFFIC ON THE RIVER ROUTE WAS DELAYED SEVERAL DAYS.

I'M SURE YOU'RE AWARE OF THIS MUCH, MR. LAWRENCE.

SO HER GUESS WAS CORRECT.

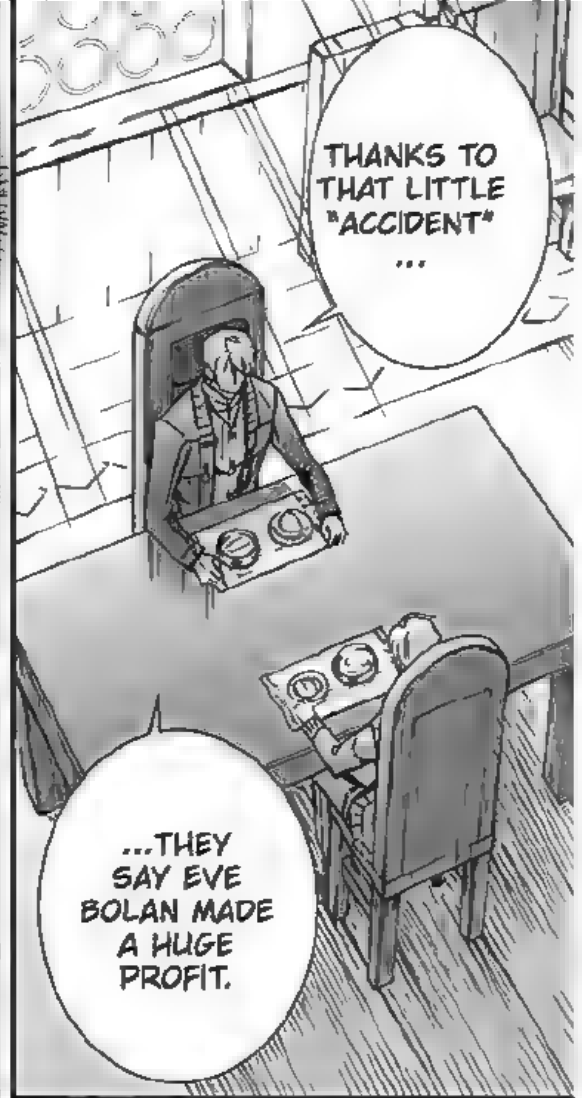


I SEE...  
SO YOU REALLY  
DON'T KNOW,  
DO YOU?



EVE WAS THE  
ONE WHO SET  
UP THE BOAT  
RUNNING  
AGROUND  
...?

—SOUNDS  
LIKE SHE  
HAS SOME  
IMPRESSIVE  
ABILITIES.



THANKS TO  
THAT LITTLE  
"ACCIDENT"  
...

...THEY  
SAY EVE  
BOLAN MADE  
A HUGE  
PROFIT.



...HER  
NAME IS  
EXTREMELY  
IMPORTANT  
AT THE  
MOMENT, AND  
WE'RE IN A  
VERY DELICATE  
POSITION.

...IS  
THAT, HERE,  
IN THIS  
TOWN...

THE REASON  
I BROUGHT  
YOU HERE, MR.  
LAWRENCE...



...TO  
SECRETLY  
COOPERATE  
WITH THE  
TOWN  
HEADMEN  
FOR PROFIT.

SHE'S  
USING HER  
STATUS AS  
FORMER  
NOBILITY...

MEANING?





...OF  
ALL THE  
INTERESTED  
PARTIES.

SHE'S  
PROBABLY  
THE ONLY ONE  
WHO HAS A  
COMPLETE  
PICTURE...



I HAD  
NO IDEA  
SHE WAS  
SO...MUCH  
MORE THAN  
I IMAGINED  
HER TO  
BE.

.....



NO ONE  
KNOWS WHAT  
THE IMPACT  
OF MAKING A  
SINGLE MISTAKE  
IN THEIR  
DEALINGS  
WITH HER  
MIGHT BE.



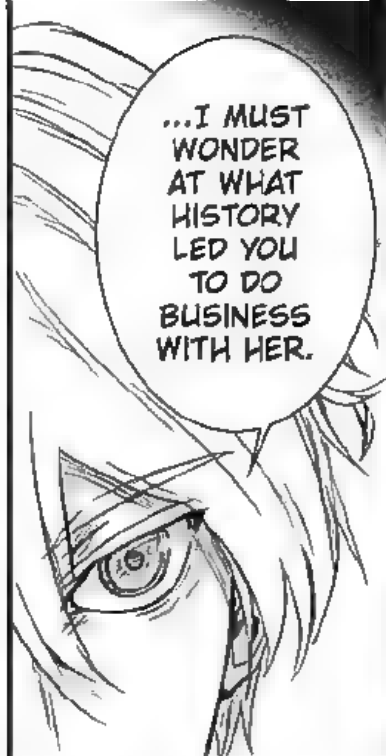
...THAT  
YOU'RE NOT  
INVOLVED  
WITH HER  
IN DOING  
BUSINESS  
HERE.

WELL, MR.  
LAWRENCE,  
I'VE  
CONFIRMED  
...

IT'S A BIT  
DISAPPOINTING,  
BUT AT THE  
SAME TIME,  
I'M RELIEVED.



AS A  
GUILD, WE ARE  
AS CAREFUL IN  
DEALING WITH  
HER AS WE ARE  
IN DEALING WITH  
THE NORTH  
AND SOUTH OF  
THIS TOWN.



...I MUST  
WONDER  
AT WHAT  
HISTORY  
LED YOU  
TO DO  
BUSINESS  
WITH HER.



STILL  
.....



I SUPPOSE  
YOU'RE HOPING  
TO USE MISS  
EVE'S CONTACTS  
TO DISCOVER  
PROFITABLE  
INFORMATION?



I DID NOTHING.  
SHE APPROACHED  
ME.



HERE IN THIS TOWN,  
THERE ARE MANY  
WHO WISH TO DEAL  
WITH EVE BOLAN,  
BUT SHE'S UTTERLY  
UNAPPROACHABLE.



I'M SURE  
ANYONE WHO  
CAN GET A  
FAVORABLE  
RESPONSE  
FROM HER  
WILL DO  
WELL...




IT WAS  
NONE OTHER  
THAN EVE WHO  
WAS CLASHING  
WITH THE  
SOUTH SIDE'S  
COIN PURSE  
MERCENARIES  
AT THE  
"SPRING OF  
GOLD,"  
RIGHT?



SHE  
INGRATIATED  
HERSELF WITH  
THE HEADMEN,  
USED THEM,  
PROFITED...

...AND  
THEN WAS  
UNABLE TO  
PAY THEM  
BACK.

OR  
PERHAPS  
SHE SIMPLY  
DIDN'T  
WANT  
TO.



—AND ONLY  
NOW AM I  
STARTING TO  
UNDERSTAND  
WHY.



HOHH?





I SEE...  
AS A  
MERCHANT,  
EH?

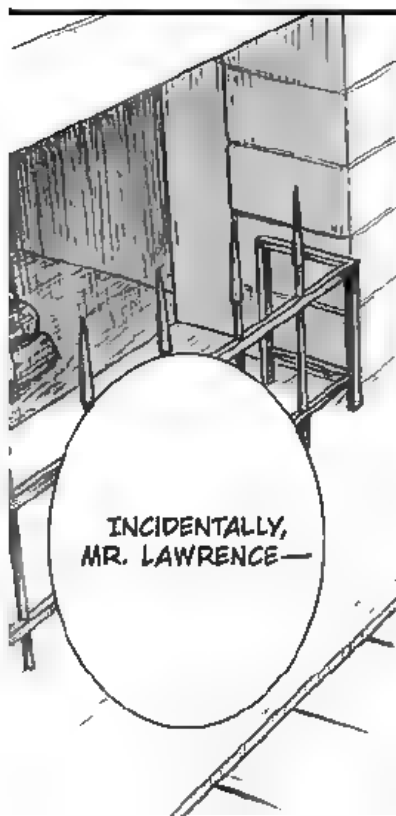


I TAKE  
THIS  
PROMISE  
VERY  
SERIOUSLY.



AS A  
MERCHANT,  
I PROMISED  
TO SEE MY  
COMPANION,  
WHO HAS  
FORGOTTEN  
THE WAY...

...BACK  
TO HER  
HOME IN THE  
FOREST OF  
YOITSU.



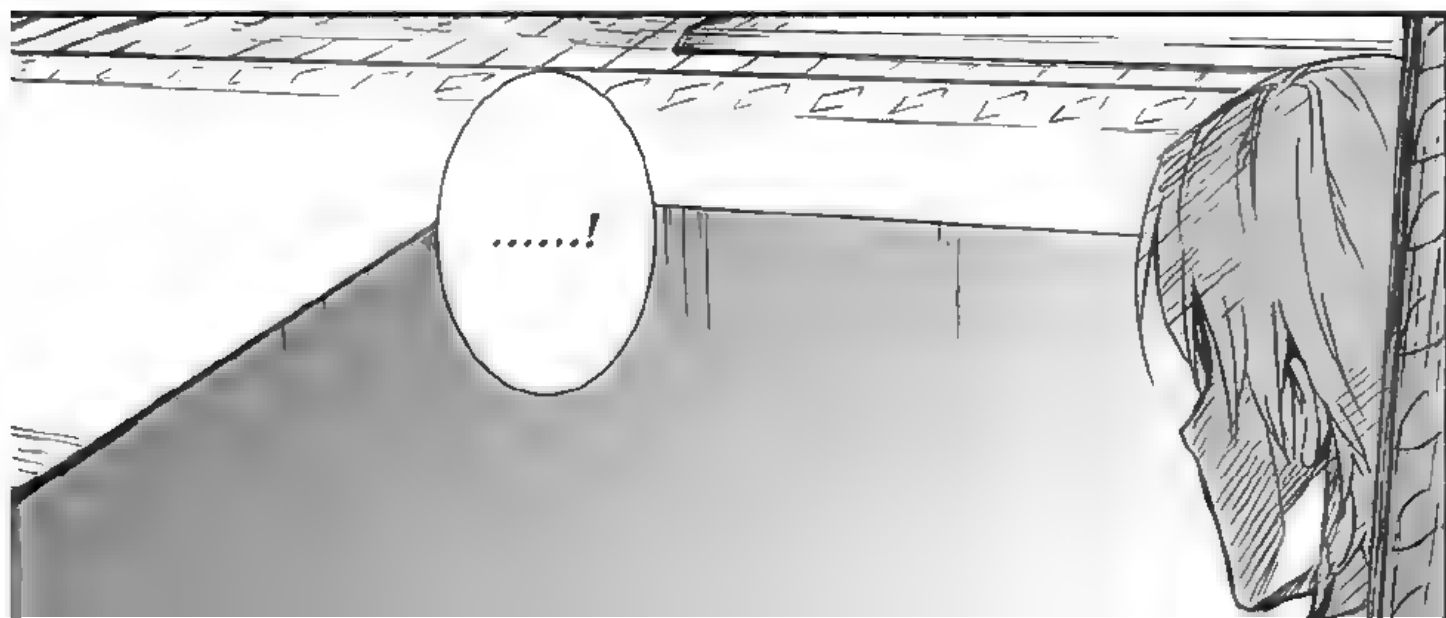
INCIDENTALLY,  
MR. LAWRENCE—



SO  
ON THAT  
COUNT,  
YOU'VE  
FOUND  
THE RIGHT  
PERSON  
TO ASK.

I DOUBT  
THERE'S  
ANYONE WHO  
KNOWS MORE  
ABOUT THE  
ROAM RIVER  
REGION THAN  
EVE BOLAN.







**WHICH  
IS YOUR  
PRIORITY?**

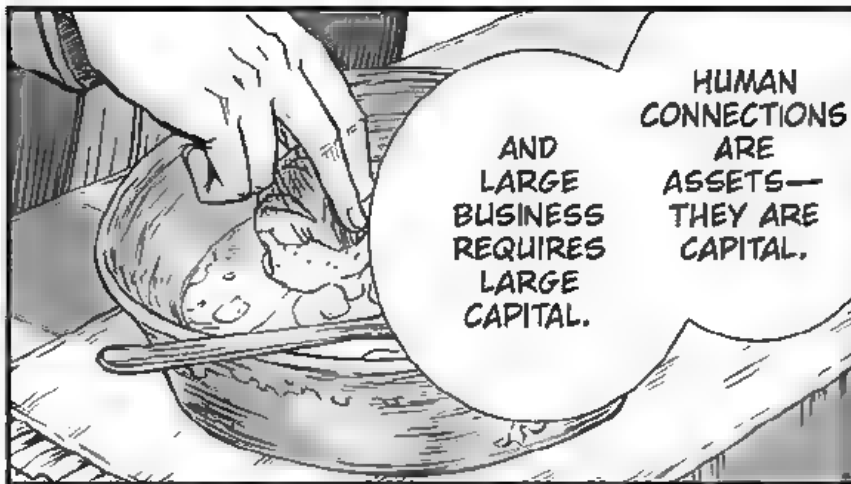


**...THE  
GUILD...OF  
COURSE.**

**ER,  
WELL...**



I  
SHOULDN'T  
HAVE LET  
MY GUARD  
DOWN...



AND  
LARGE  
BUSINESS  
REQUIRES  
LARGE  
CAPITAL.

HUMAN  
CONNECTIONS  
ARE  
ASSETS—  
THEY ARE  
CAPITAL.



IN THAT CASE,  
I'M EXPECTING  
YOU TO BEHAVE  
IN A MANNER  
BEFITTING A  
MEMBER OF  
THIS GUILD.

—I'VE  
COMPLETELY  
MISJUDGED  
EVE'S  
IMPORTANCE  
AS WELL.



.....  
.....

EVE WAS  
ONLY JUST  
IN A DIFFICULT  
PLACE WITHOUT  
ANYWHERE  
TO TURN,  
YOU SEE.





...AND  
THEY MAY  
NOT HAVE  
LIVED FOR  
CENTURIES...

THOUGH  
THEY MAY  
LACK WOLF  
EARS OR  
TAILS...



I  
FELT THE  
TRUTH OF  
THAT.

...YOU'LL  
SURELY  
REGRET  
IT.



AH,  
YES.  
ONE  
MORE  
THING.



IF YOU  
SPEAK OF  
THIS TO  
ANYONE  
ELSE...

...THERE  
ARE  
PEOPLE IN  
THE WORLD  
EVERY BIT  
HOLO'S  
EQUAL.

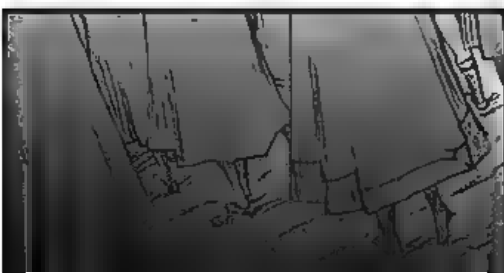
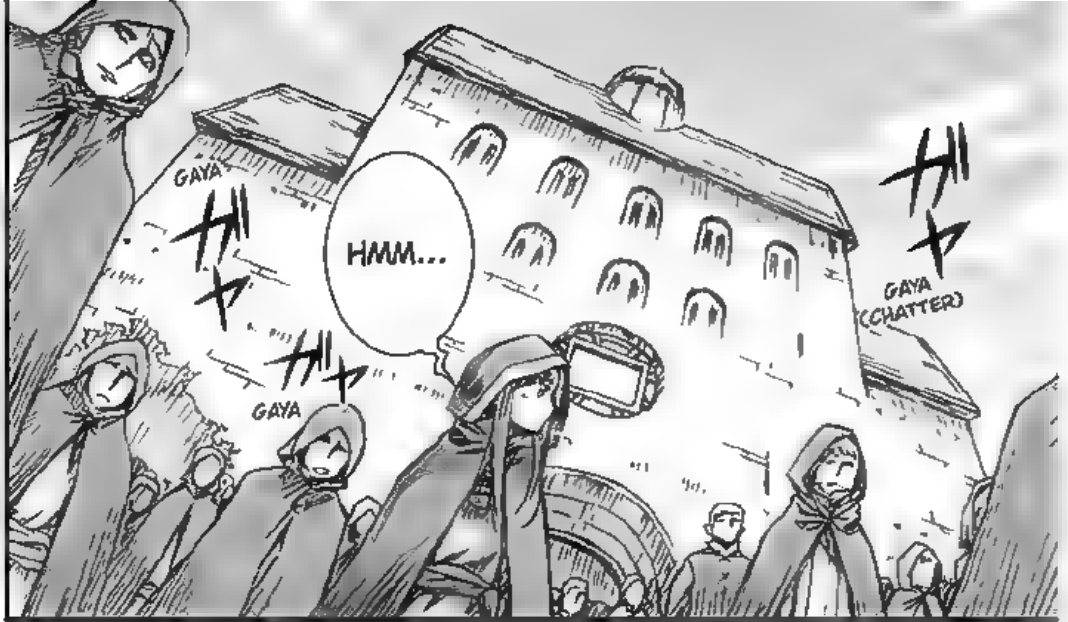


SPICE & WOLF

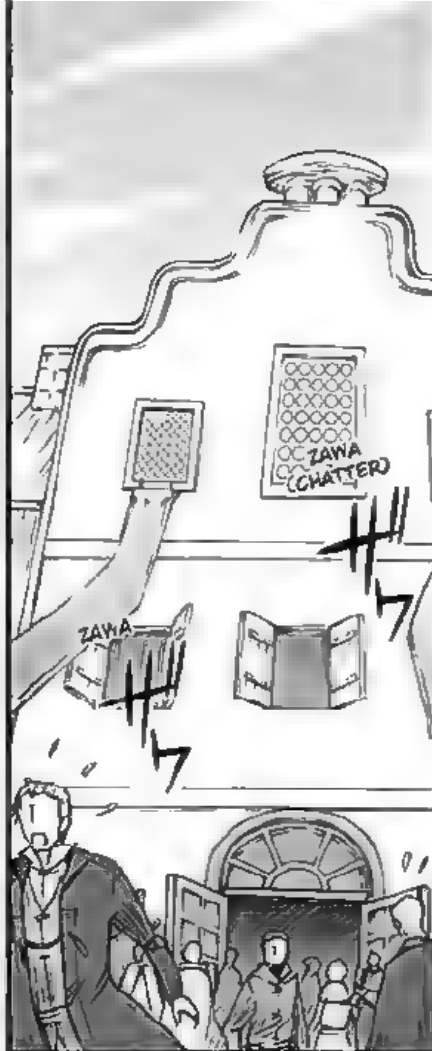














ANYWAY,  
WE'RE  
HEADING  
BACK TO  
THE INN.



SOUTHBOUND  
BOATS WERE  
PACKED FULL  
OF PEOPLE  
MADLY TRYING  
TO GET  
THERE.

AYE, 'T WAS  
AN AMAZING  
COMMOTION.

MOCCHI  
(MUNCH)



BUT I  
ASSUMED  
IT WAS  
JUST  
TALK OF  
INTERNAL  
POLITICS.

ACCORDING  
TO TALK IN THE  
TRADE HOUSE, A  
SHIP FROM THE  
NORTH SIDE WAS  
BEING TOWED  
BY A SHIP FROM  
A COMPANY ON  
THE SOUTH  
SIDE.

?



HOW  
SHOULD I  
KNOW? I TRIED  
TO LISTEN TO  
THE PEOPLE  
AROUND ME,  
BUT TO NO  
AVAIL.

I THOUGHT  
'T WOULD BE  
BETTER TO  
FIND YOU  
AGAIN.

PERO  
CLICK



I KNOW  
MOST OF THE  
STORY, BUT  
WHAT COULD  
MAKE THE  
CHURCH SEND  
PEOPLE AWAY  
LIKE THAT?



GIVEN THE  
CONFLICT IN  
THIS TOWN, I  
THOUGHT IT  
WAS ANOTHER  
DISPUTE OVER  
TERRITORY.

WHEN  
THE FISH  
HEAD NORTH,  
THEY FISH IN  
THE NORTH,  
AND WHEN  
THE FISH ARE  
SOUTH,  
THEY GO  
SOUTH.



YOU CAN'T  
DRAW LINES  
IN THE SEA,  
AFTER ALL.

SAAA  
(SWSH)



...THEN  
TO CARRY  
THAT NOT TO  
A TRADING  
COMPANY,  
BUT TO THE  
CHURCH—

BUT FOR  
THEM TO TOW  
IN A NORTH-  
SIDE SHIP AND  
BRING ASHORE  
SOMETHING  
THAT REQUIRED  
ARMED  
ESCORT...

PACHA  
(SPLASH)

110 千+



HMM



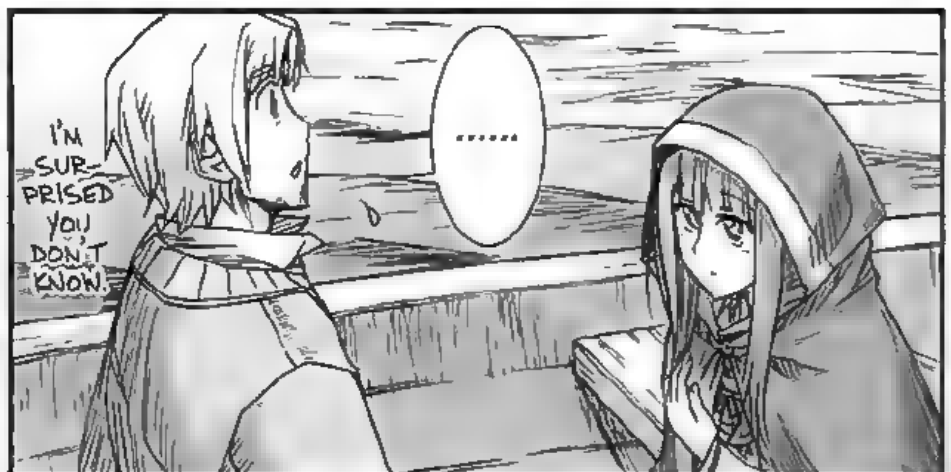
A  
MERMAID?

I WONDER IF  
THEY REALLY  
DID CATCH A  
MERMAID OR  
SOMETHING.

10 PERO  
D



THEY'RE  
A KIND OF  
LEGENDARY  
CREATURE.

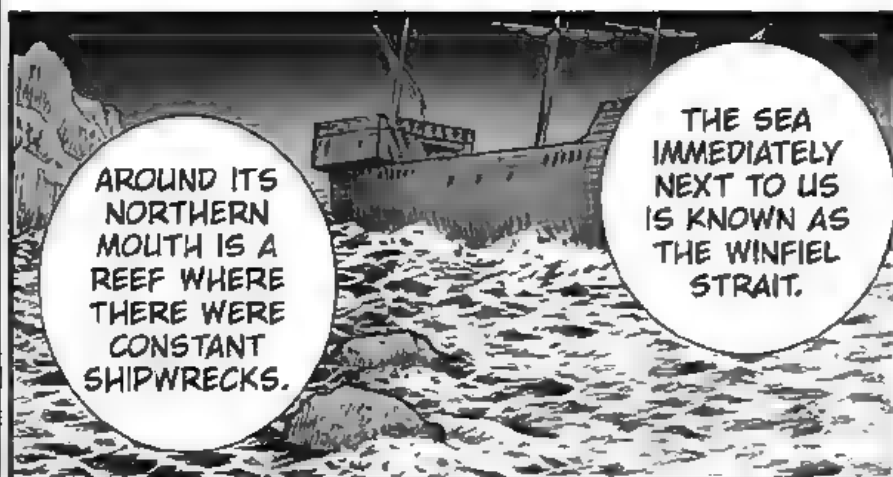


I'M  
SUR-  
PRISED  
YOU  
DON'T  
KNOW

.....



AND  
THERE'S  
AN OLD  
LEGEND  
ABOUT  
THEM...



AROUND ITS  
NORTHERN  
MOUTH IS A  
REEF WHERE  
THERE WERE  
CONSTANT  
SHIPWRECKS.

THE SEA  
IMMEDIATELY  
NEXT TO US  
IS KNOWN AS  
THE WINFIEL  
STRAIT.



MERMAIDS  
ARE HUMAN  
FROM THE  
WAIST UP,  
BUT BELOW  
THAT, THEY  
HAVE THE  
TAILS OF  
FISH.



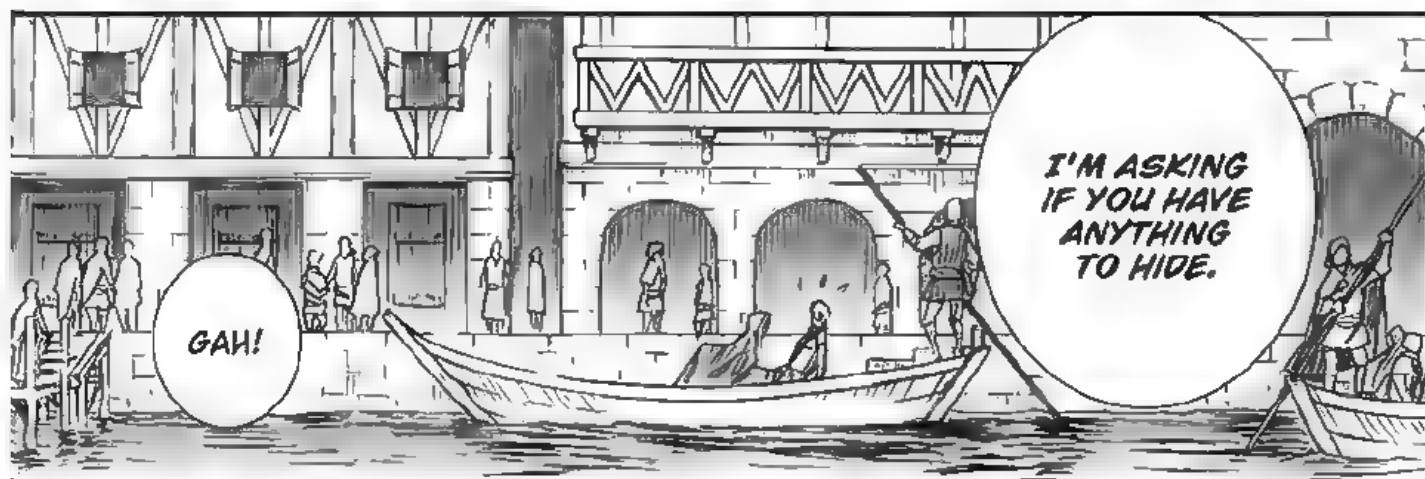
...THAT  
WOMEN WITH  
VOICES OF  
UNEARTHLY  
BEAUTY SING  
ENCHANTED SONGS  
FROM THAT REEF,  
CAUSING SAILORS  
TO LOSE THEIR  
WAY AND WRECK  
THEIR SHIPS  
...

BUT  
WHAT SORT  
OF WOMEN SIT  
ON WAVE-  
POUNDED  
ROCKS LIKE  
THAT, YOU  
ASK?



HUMAN  
MALES  
SURELY  
ARE EASY  
TO FOOL.

HMPH.









AYE.

I CANNOT  
HAVE YOU  
LOSING  
YOUR  
WAY.



EVEN IF  
I WERE AT  
THE TOP OF  
THAT LIST, I  
ASSUME YOU  
WOULDN'T  
ADMIT IT,  
WOULD  
YOU?



YOU  
SEE?

AYE.



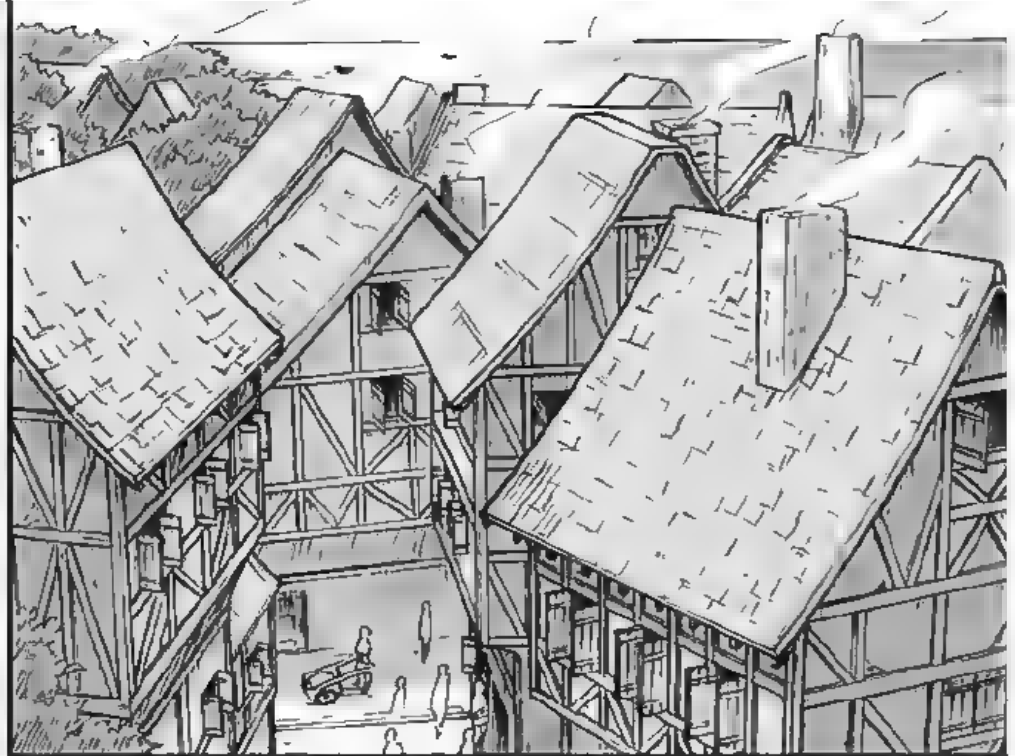
...WHATEVER  
YOU DECIDE,  
ALL I NEED  
DO IS ACT  
ACCORDING  
TO MY OWN  
PRIORITIES.

ANY-  
WAY  
...

!



MR. REYNOLDS, EH~?



THIS PAST AUTUMN, HE SAID HE COULDN'T EVEN AFFORD TO EAT WELL AND HAD FALLEN TO SAVING HIS TABLE SCRAPS.

HE'S AWFUL STINGY THESE DAYS, NOT THAT HE WAS EVER MUCH FOR GENEROSITY.

EVEN THOUGH HANDLIN' ALL THAT COPPER COIN MEANS HE WAS RAKIN' IT IN ALL ALONG.



NIGH IMPOS-SIBLE!

HNNN! NAH, CAN'T BE!

HEE HEE



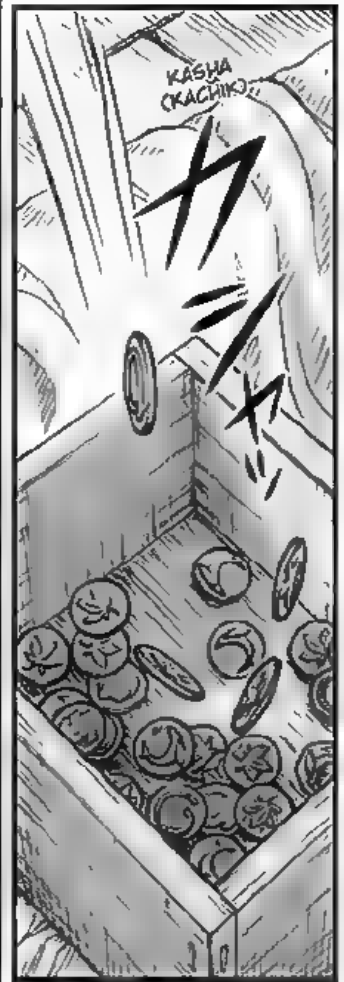
I SEE...

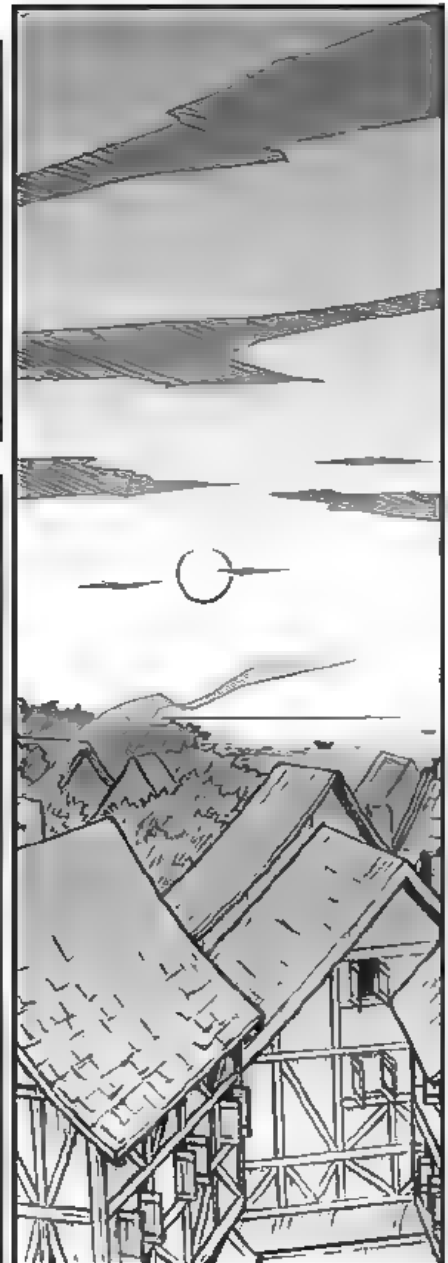
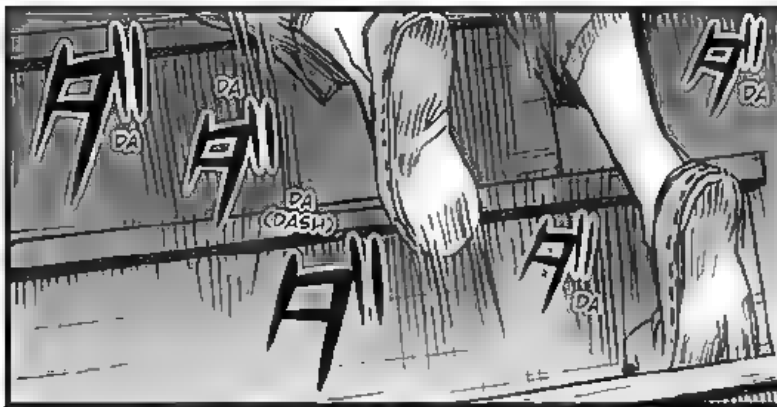
I'D HEARD THAT HE HAD A FORTUNE SAVED AWAY...



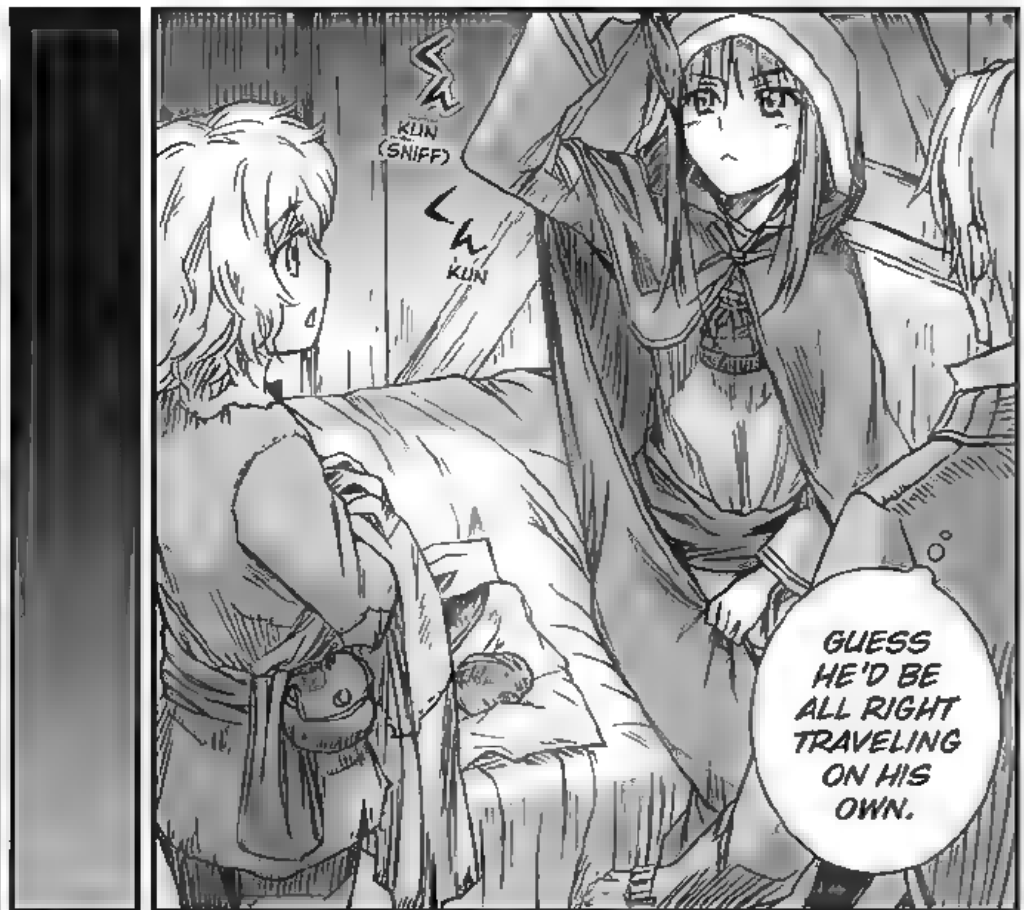
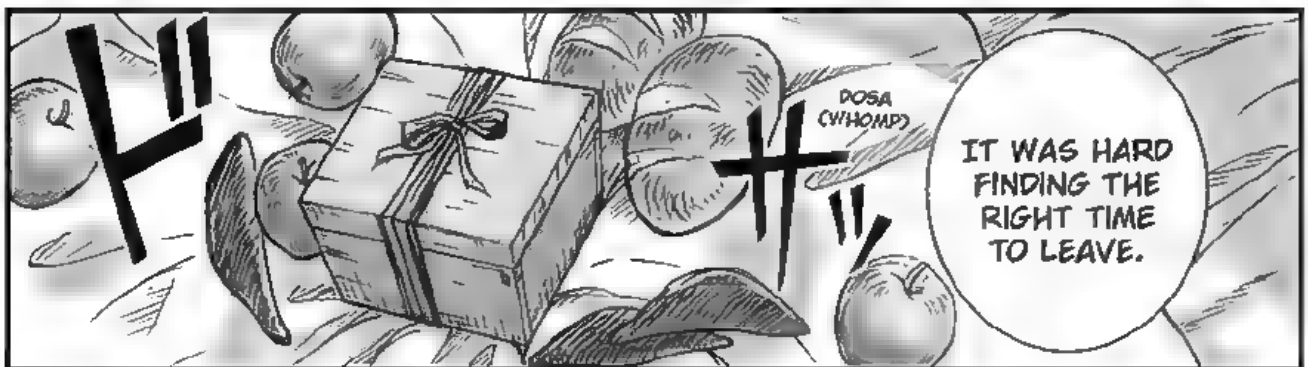
THE CAN-CELLATION OF THE NORTHERN CAMPAIGNS HAS COME AROUND TO AFFECT EVEN US!

IT'S SUCH A TERRIBLE BOTHER!













HMM.  
SHE'S A DANGEROUS PERSON TO CONTACT... WITH THE CLAIM THAT YOU'LL DO ANYTHING AS LONG AS IT EXPANDS YOUR BUSINESS.



SO... REYNOLDS KNOWS WHERE THE BOOK IS BUT HAS NO WAY TO NEGOTIATE WITH ITS KEEPER.

THAT HE WANTS TO USE EVE AS A MIDDLEMAN... MAKES PERFECT SENSE.



HE HAD A CLEAR GOAL IN WANTING TO APPROACH EVE.



...ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS GET ON BOARD WITH THAT COMPANY.

SO...

?



SUCH  
CHILDISH  
GAMBITS—



IF  
POSSIBLE,  
OUR SOLUTION  
SHOULD BE  
MONEY...  
IN THE WORST  
CASE, A  
SECRET THEFT  
WOULD ALSO  
WORK.

NO,  
NO.

EH?



ENOUGH  
MONEY  
CAN  
EASILY  
KILL A  
PERSON.



HMPH...

PLU  
(FWIP)



AND IT'S  
FOR MONEY  
THAT YOUR  
HOMELAND  
WILL BE  
STRIPPED  
BARE.



...THE  
QUESTION  
BECOMES  
"WHAT CAN  
WE DO ABOUT  
IT, AND THE  
ANSWER MAY  
WELL BE  
"NOT VERY  
MUCH."

STILL, NOW  
THAT WE'VE  
RECOGNIZED  
THE SITUA-  
TION...

THERE'S  
NOTHING  
CHILDISH  
ABOUT  
THAT.



IF THAT  
JEAN COMPANY  
OR WHATEVER  
'TIS CALLED  
IS SEEKING  
THE AID OF  
THAT VIXEN...

...THEN WE  
HAVE TWO  
CHOICES.



.....WHY  
SHOULD  
THAT  
BE?



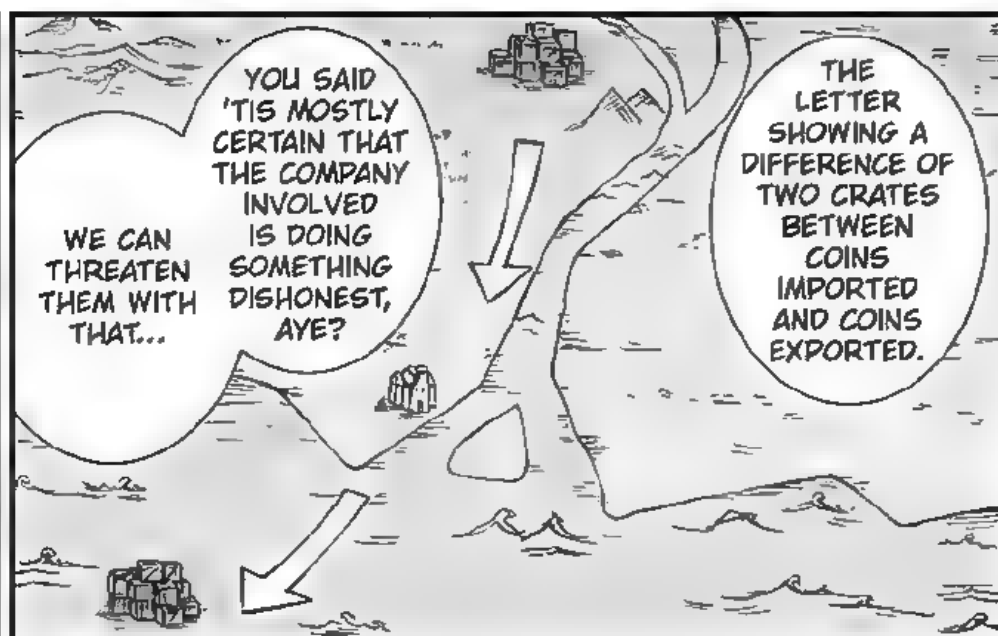
...FROM  
THE  
LETTER  
COL  
FOUND.

AYE.  
ONE IS THE  
MYSTERY  
OF THE  
COPPER COIN  
CRATES...

TWO?



ONLY  
IF WE CAN  
SOLVE THE  
MYSTERY  
FIRST.



WE CAN  
THREATEN  
THEM WITH  
THAT...

YOU SAID  
'TIS MOSTLY  
CERTAIN THAT  
THE COMPANY  
INVOLVED  
IS DOING  
SOMETHING  
DISHONEST,  
AYE?

THE  
LETTER  
SHOWING A  
DIFFERENCE OF  
TWO CRATES  
BETWEEN  
COINS  
IMPORTED  
AND COINS  
EXPORTED.





SFX: KUSHA (RUFFLE)







**WE  
NEED BUT  
SEDUCE  
HER.**



...MAKE  
NO MISTAKE  
THAT SHE'LL  
INSTANTLY BE  
ON GUARD  
AGAINST  
HAVING IT  
STOLEN  
AWAY.

IF WE ASK  
HER WHERE  
THE BOOK  
IS...

**YES.  
WHAT  
PROFIT  
IS THERE  
FOR EVE  
IN DOING  
THAT?**



**WHY  
WOULD  
SHE...?**



COL, MY  
LAD. CLOSE  
YOUR EYES  
AND COVER  
YOUR EARS.

GOKU  
(GULP)

IS SHE  
SERIOUSLY  
TELLING ME  
TO SEDUCE  
HER...?  
I COULDN'T  
POSSIBLY!

YOU'RE  
TRYING TO  
FOOL THIS  
WISEWOLF,  
AFTER  
ALL.

WH-  
WHAT'RE  
YOU—

GYN  
(SQUEEZE)

SO IT  
SHOULD  
BE NO  
TROUBLE  
AT ALL,  
NAY?



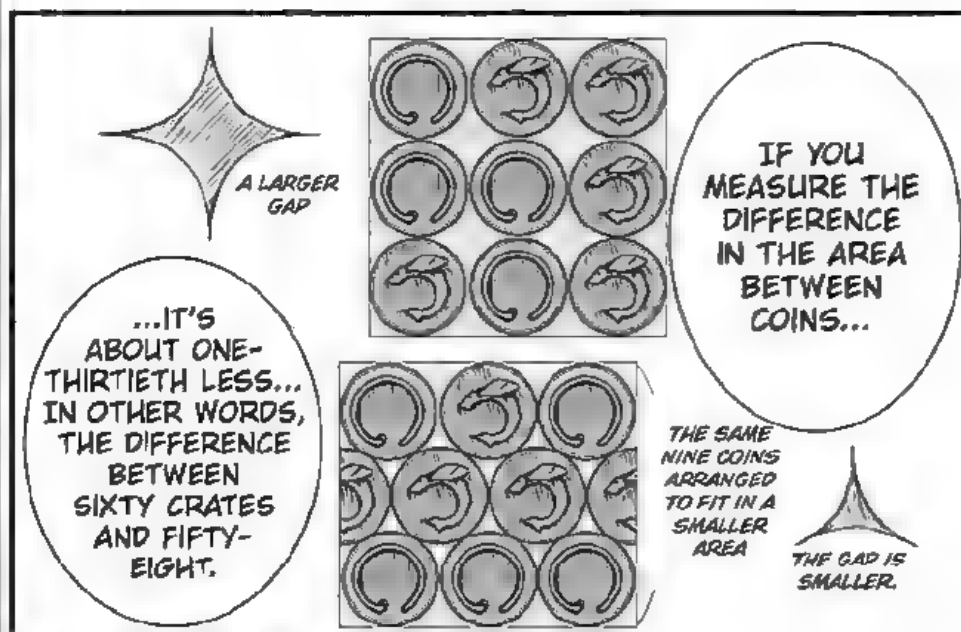








IF THEY WERE TOLD TO PACK THE CRATES TIGHTLY, NO ONE WOULD THINK TO CHECK EXACTLY HOW THEY WERE PACKED DURING EXPORT.



...IT'S ABOUT ONE-THIRTIETH LESS... IN OTHER WORDS, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SIXTY CRATES AND FIFTY-EIGHT.

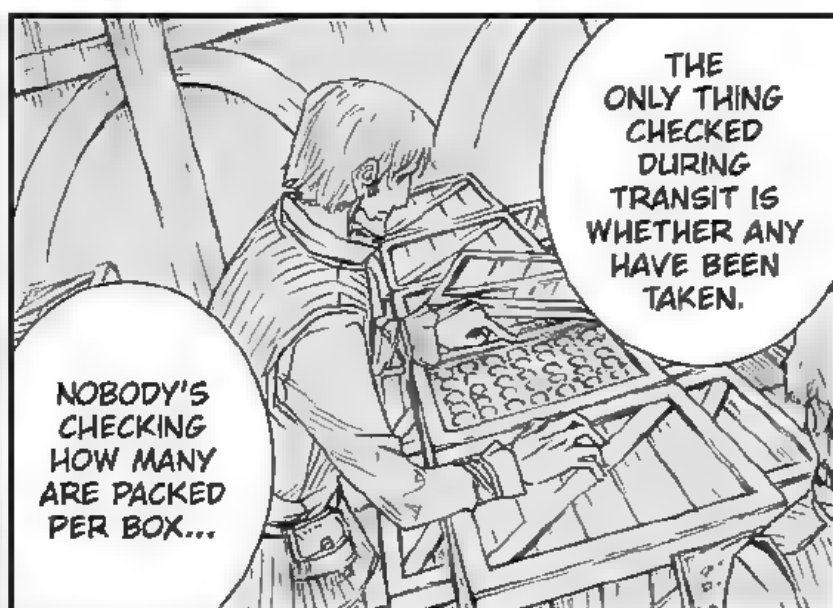
IF YOU MEASURE THE DIFFERENCE IN THE AREA BETWEEN COINS...

THE SAME NINE COINS ARRANGED TO FIT IN A SMALLER AREA

THE GAP IS SMALLER.



TAXATION GOES BY THE NUMBER OF CRATES, AS DO TRANSPORT FEES.



THE ONLY THING CHECKED DURING TRANSIT IS WHETHER ANY HAVE BEEN TAKEN.

NOBODY'S CHECKING HOW MANY ARE PACKED PER BOX...



HAS NO ONE ELSE NOTICED THIS?

HMM?



I WONDER, THOUGH...

COMMON SENSE IS A TRICKY OPPONENT ...

1=4?



I'LL  
AGREE THAT  
COL IS A  
BRIGHT LAD,  
BUT THERE ARE  
MANY BRIGHT  
PEOPLE IN  
THE WORLD.

IF YOU  
DID THIS  
FOR YEARS,  
SURELY YOU'D  
EVENTUALLY  
MEET SOMEONE  
ELSE WHO  
KNOWS THE  
TRICK?



HMM?

NO,  
THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
VERY  
PARTICULAR  
NECESSARY  
TO NOTICE  
THIS.



YES. ONLY  
AFTER WE  
KNOW THE  
DETAILS OF  
THE EXPORT  
AND IMPORT  
CAN WE BEGIN  
TO SUSPECT  
FOUL PLAY.

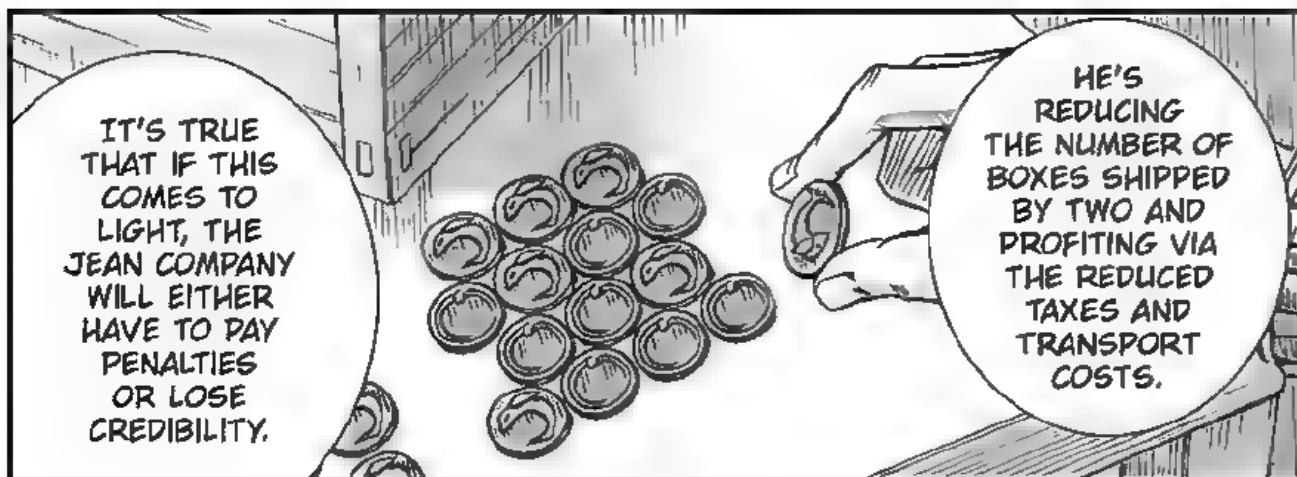
EVEN  
SOMEONE  
WHO LIVES  
CAUTIOUSLY  
CAN'T INSPECT  
EVERY-  
THING.



THE  
MANIFEST,  
RIGHT?







IT'S TRUE  
THAT IF THIS  
COMES TO  
LIGHT, THE  
JEAN COMPANY  
WILL EITHER  
HAVE TO PAY  
PENALTIES  
OR LOSE  
CREDIBILITY.

HE'S  
REDUCING  
THE NUMBER OF  
BOXES SHIPPED  
BY TWO AND  
PROFITING VIA  
THE REDUCED  
TAXES AND  
TRANSPORT  
COSTS.



IT MIGHT'VE  
BEEN JUST  
THE RIGHT  
WEAPON TO  
USE IF THEY  
WERE ONLY  
CHASING  
THE BOOK  
FOR FUN.

THAT'S  
IT,  
YES.



HOW  
DULL...

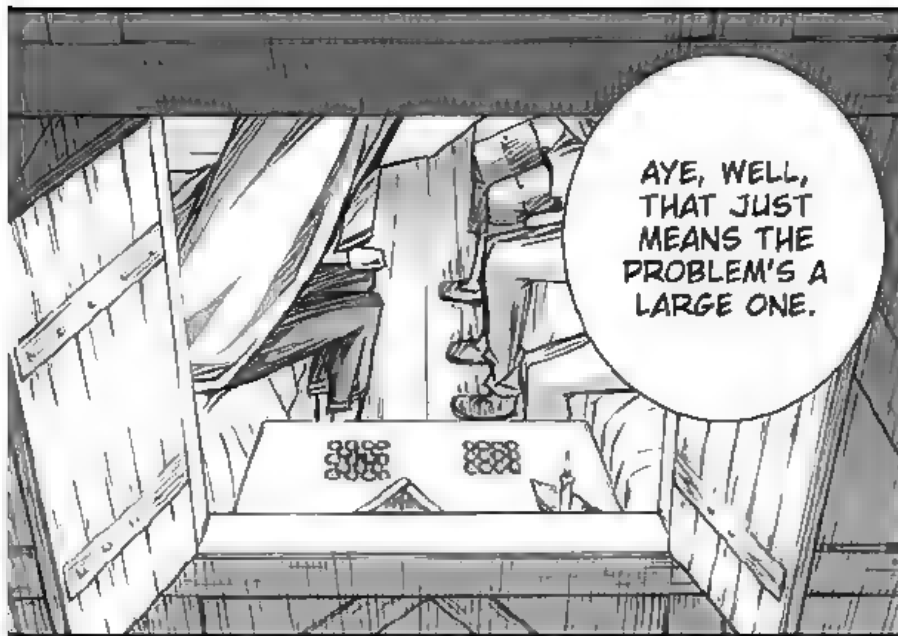
BUT THE  
DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN THAT  
PENALTY AND  
THE PROFIT  
FROM THE  
BOOK IS TOO  
GREAT...  
AYE?



BUT...



HAHAHA  
(SIGH)



AYE, WELL,  
THAT JUST  
MEANS THE  
PROBLEM'S A  
LARGE ONE.



BESIDES,  
'TIS BETTER  
THIS THAN  
SOMETHING  
SOLVED WITH  
THE TRADE  
OF A SINGLE  
APPLE.



QUITE RIGHT.  
IF ONE METHOD  
WON'T WORK,  
WE'LL JUST  
MOVE ON TO  
THE NEX—



THAT'S RIGHT.  
THIS PLACE IS  
LIKE EVE'S BASE  
OF OPERATIONS...



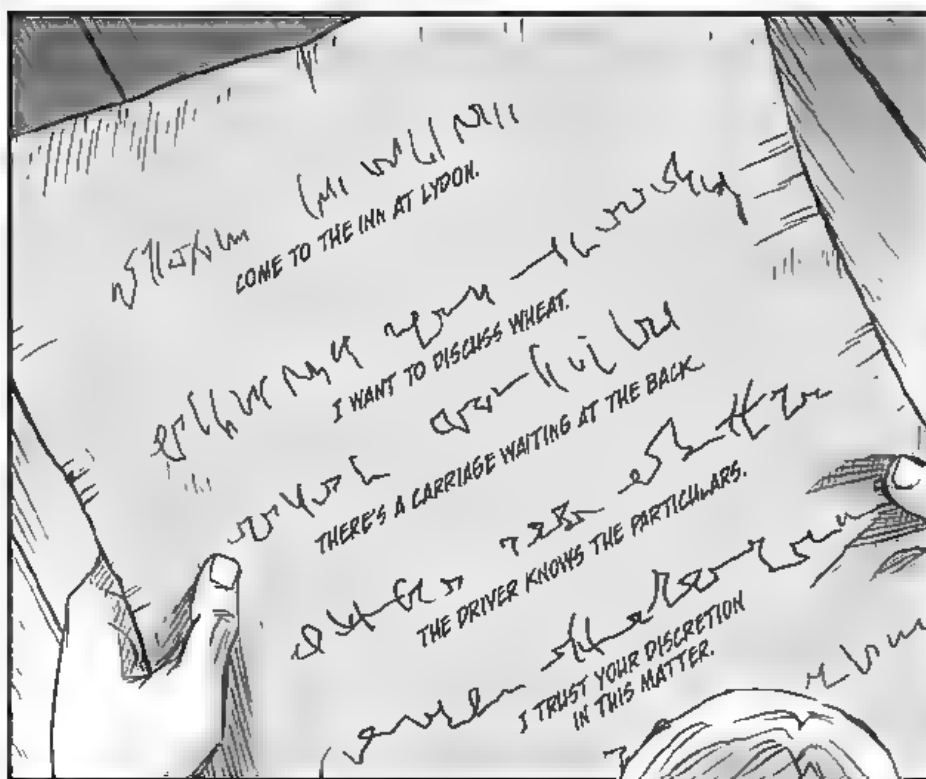
THE  
INNKEEPER  
IS COMING  
UP.

!





MAKING  
THE FIRST  
MOVE,  
IS SHE?  
QUITE THE  
VIXEN...



COME TO THE INN AT LYDON.

I WANT TO DISCUSS WHEAT.

THERE'S A CARRIAGE WAITING AT THE BACK

THE DRIVER KNOWS THE PARTICULARS.

I TRUST YOUR DISCRETION  
IN THIS MATTER.

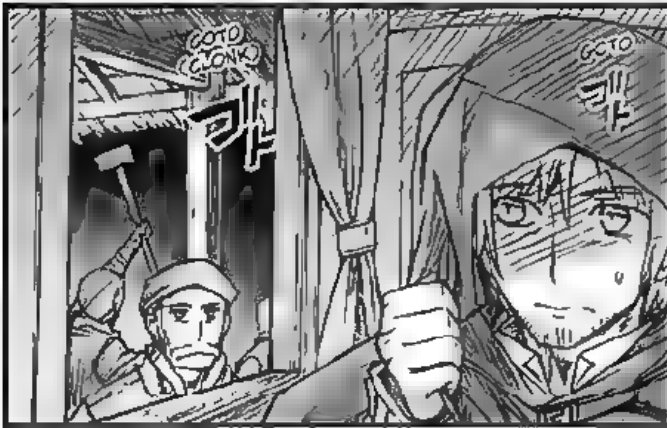


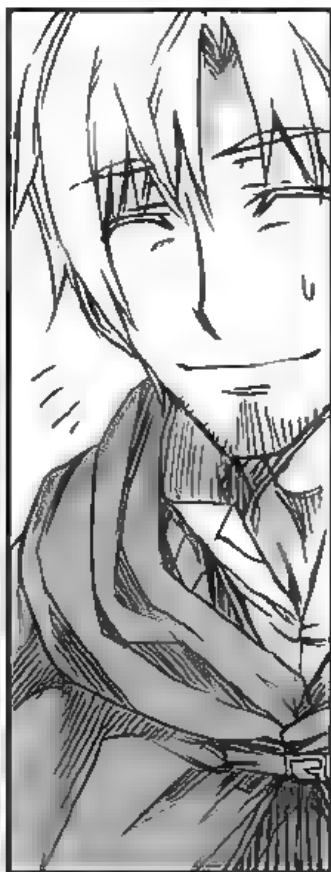
THE  
SENDER'S  
NAME ISN'T  
WRITTEN  
HERE.  
...IS IT  
EVE...?



SHE  
WANTS  
ME TO  
COME  
ALONE  
...









IT'S COLD  
OUT THERE.  
CLOSE THE  
DOOR IF  
YOU WOULD.  
NO LOCK,  
THOUGH.



SURPRISED,  
ARE YOU?



.....

SORRY TO  
CALL YOU  
OUT SO  
SUDDENLY.



SADLY,  
I'VE NO  
SERVANTS.

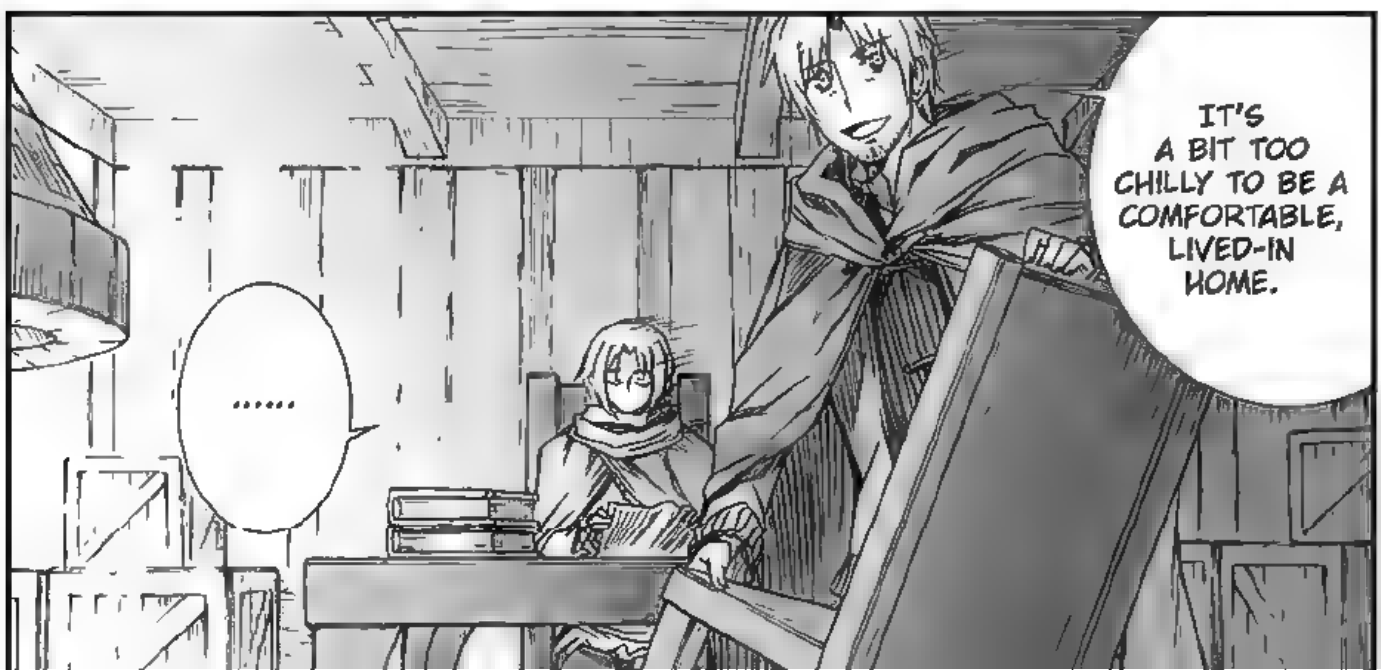
WELL,  
ANYWAY,  
SIT.



A SECRET  
RENDEZ-  
VOUS...  
EH?

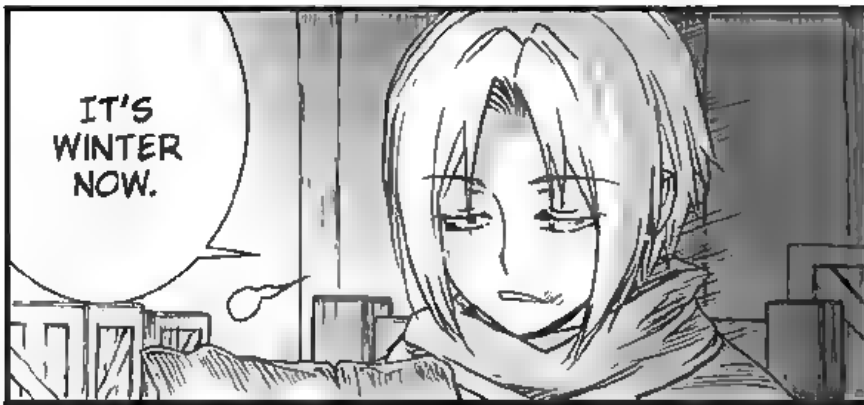


NOT  
AT ALL. I'M  
HONORED TO  
BE SUMMONED  
FOR A SECRET  
RENDEZVOUS  
WITH A  
BEAUTIFUL  
WOMAN.



.....

IT'S  
A BIT TOO  
CHILLY TO BE A  
COMFORTABLE,  
LIVED-IN  
HOME.



IT'S  
WINTER  
NOW.

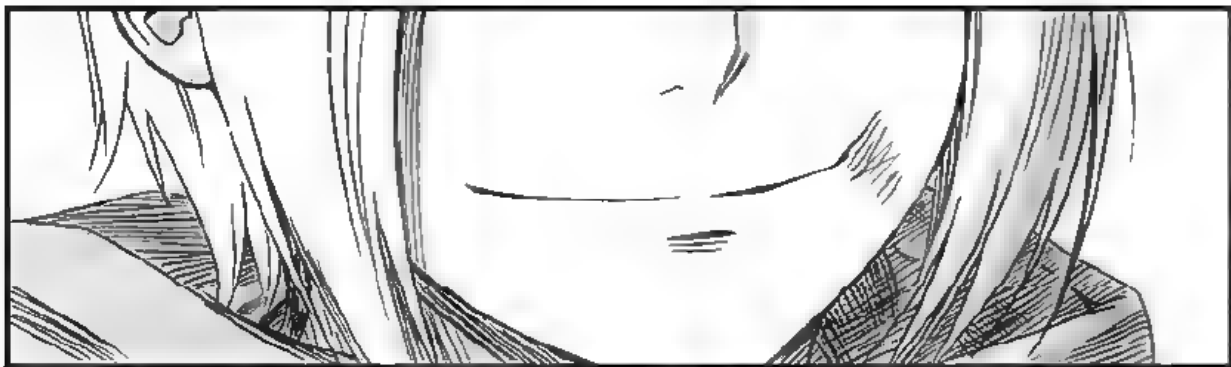


STILL,  
I IMAGINE  
IT'S NICE AND  
COOL IN THE  
SUMMERTIME.



SO  
MUCH  
THE  
BETTER.

IT'LL  
FEEL  
WARM  
WHEN  
YOU GO  
OUT.



KUH!  
KUH!

RIGHT  
YOU ARE.

I'D LOVE TO  
GET OUT. THE  
SOONER, THE  
BETTER.







THE  
REASON  
I CALLED  
YOU IS, OF  
COURSE—

(PACH)  
(CRACKLE)

1/10

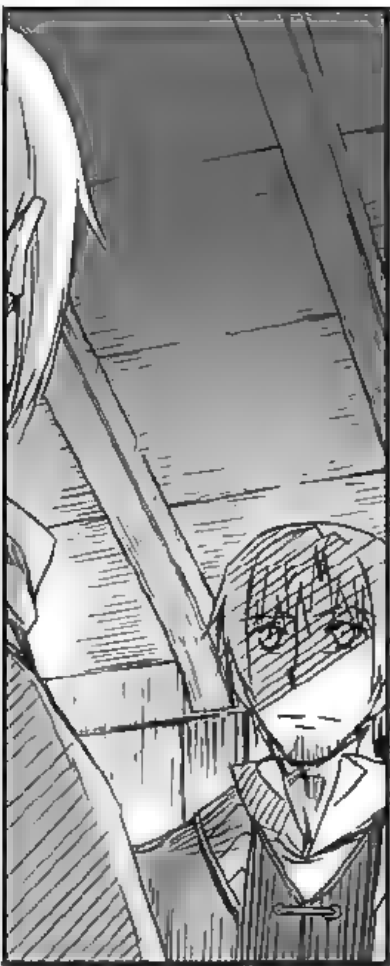
✕

WELL, YOU  
SAW THE  
COMMOTION  
IN TOWN,  
DIDN'T  
YOU?

(PACH)


1/10

✕

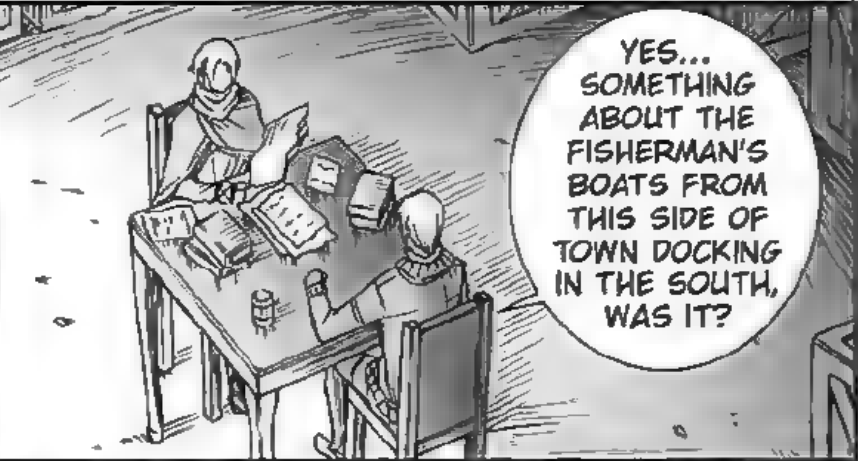


IF THINGS  
GO BADLY,  
I'LL NEED  
MY BREAD  
TORN INTO  
RATHER  
SMALL  
PIECES  
TONIGHT.

STILL,  
I'M GLAD  
YOU LET  
YOUR-  
SELF BE  
CAUGHT.



INDEED.  
IT'S AS  
THOUGH GOD  
HIMSELF  
TIMED IT.



YES...  
SOMETHING  
ABOUT THE  
FISHERMAN'S  
BOATS FROM  
THIS SIDE OF  
TOWN DOCKING  
IN THE SOUTH,  
WAS IT?



I JUST  
HAPPENED  
TO RETURN  
HERE  
WHEN THE  
NEWS  
REACHED  
ME.

NORMALLY,  
I'M ON  
THE DELTA.



I'D BE  
RECOGNIZED,  
YOU SEE,  
SO ONCE  
THE RIOTING  
STARTED, WE  
COULDN'T  
CROSS.

WHENEVER  
THERE'S A  
DISTURBANCE  
IN THIS TOWN,  
FERRY TRAFFIC IS  
STOPPED TO AVOID  
THE PROBLEM  
SPREADING.



AAH...



EVEN  
THOUGH OUR  
SPIES MADE IT  
TO THE SOUTH  
SIDE, THERE  
WASN'T TIME  
FOR THEM TO  
RETURN.



WHAT  
DID YOU  
HEAR, I  
WONDER?



I RECKON YOU  
WERE AT THAT  
DELTA GUILD  
HOUSE RIGHT  
UP UNTIL THE  
LAST MOMENT.



...AS I'M  
SURE YOU'VE  
GUESSED,  
THERE'S  
INFORMATION  
I NEED.

SO  
...



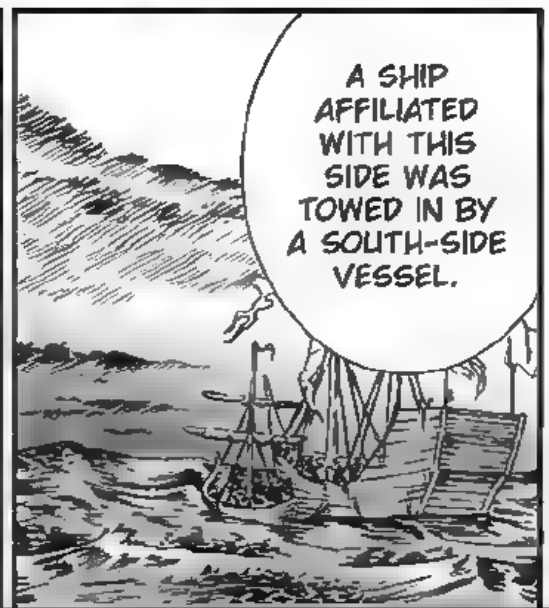
I...HEARD  
A BIT.



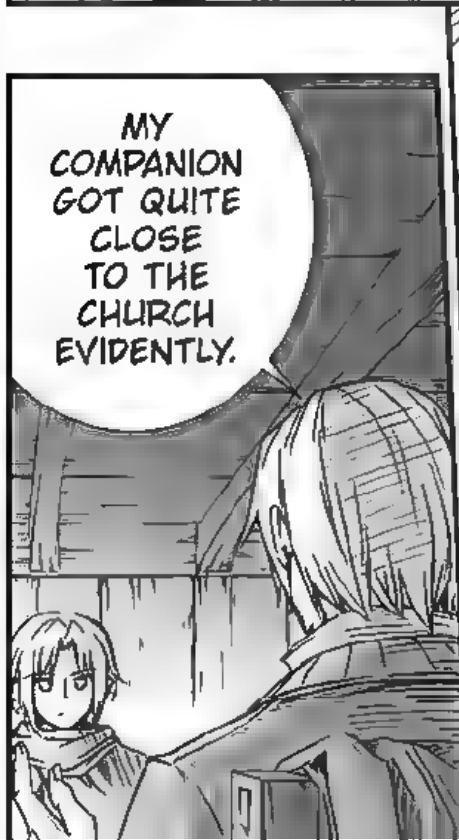
I GUESS IT'S  
POINTLESS  
TO ASK HOW  
SHE KNEW I  
WAS THERE...



I DON'T  
KNOW THE CARGO...  
BUT IT WAS WORTH  
PROTECTING WITH  
ARMED GUARDS,  
AND IT WAS  
WORTH BRINGING  
DIRECTLY TO THE  
CHURCH.



A SHIP  
AFFILIATED  
WITH THIS  
SIDE WAS  
TOWED IN BY  
A SOUTH-SIDE  
VESSEL.



MY  
COMPANION  
GOT QUITE  
CLOSE  
TO THE  
CHURCH  
EVIDENTLY.

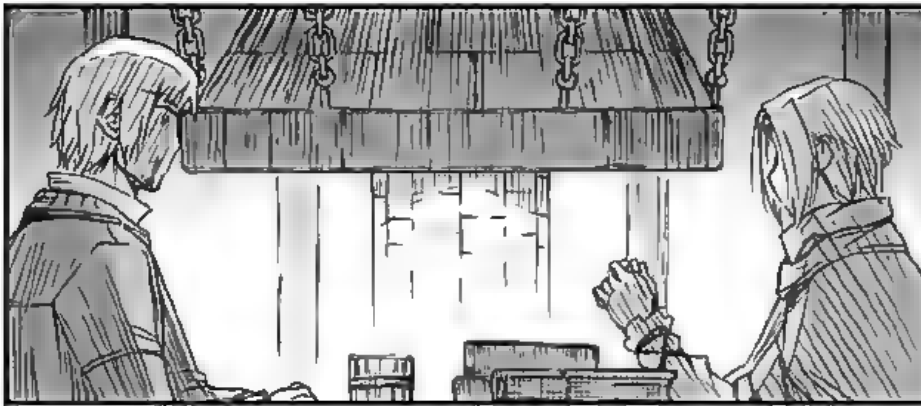


IS  
THAT  
HEAR-  
SAY?







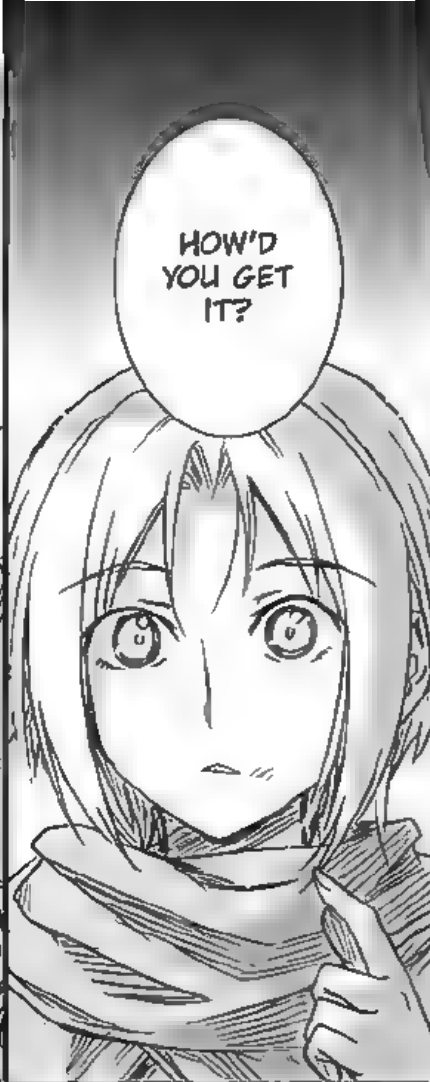


\* A TOOL USED TO HOLD ANIMALS LIKE HORSES OR OXEN IN PLACE WHEN PULLING CARTS. IT RESTRICTS THEIR MOVEMENT.





WELL  
PLAYED.



HOW'D  
YOU GET  
IT?



BUT I'M  
ALSO NOT  
BADLY  
PLACED TO  
CROSS THAT  
DANGEROUS  
BRIDGE.

IT'S NOT  
THAT I'M  
ASKING YOU  
ONLY BECAUSE  
YOU'RE IN  
THE BEST  
POSITION.



INDEED.  
MY CON-  
VERSATIONS  
WITH MY  
COMPANION  
CUT ME TO  
THE BONE.



IT'S MORE  
ADVANTAGEOUS  
TO EXPLOIT  
THIS WEAKNESS  
THAN IT IS TO  
PROTECT  
YOU.





A NARWHAL?  
AS IN THE  
IMMORTAL  
SORT?

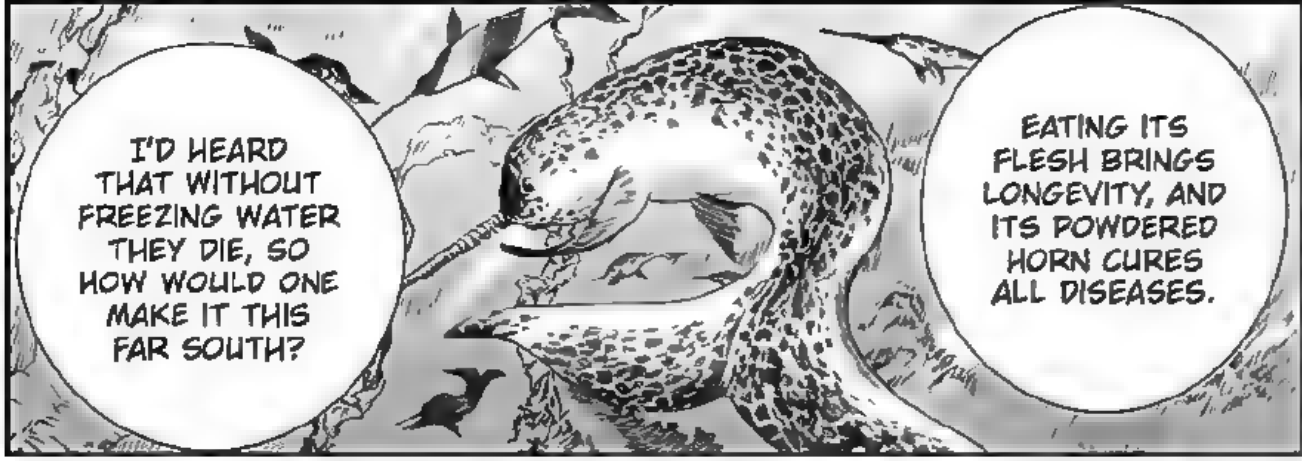
YES. A  
HORNED SEA  
MONSTER.



...EVEN  
THOUGH  
THEY DID  
THIS TO  
ME.



THE  
PEOPLE  
WHO  
LOCKED  
ME UP  
HERE ARE  
TERRIFIED  
I'LL GET  
ANGRY...

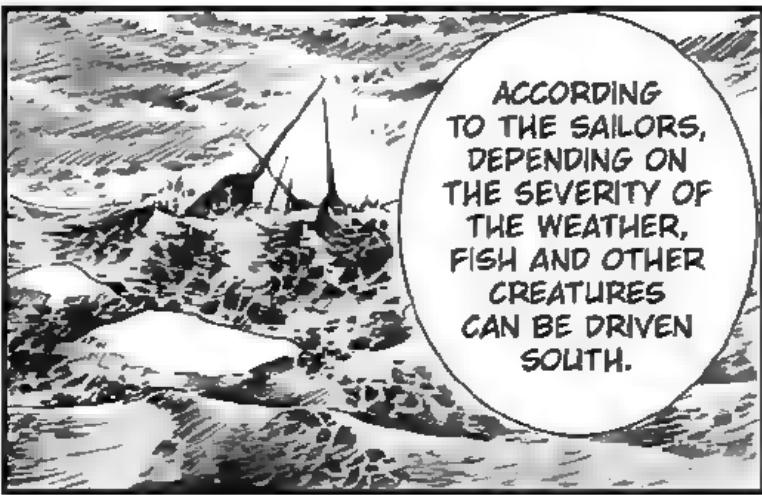


I'D HEARD  
THAT WITHOUT  
FREEZING WATER  
THEY DIE, SO  
HOW WOULD ONE  
MAKE IT THIS  
FAR SOUTH?

EATING ITS  
FLESH BRINGS  
LONGEVITY, AND  
ITS POWDERED  
HORN CURES  
ALL DISEASES.




THOUGH  
THIS IS  
THE FIRST  
TIME I'VE  
HEARD OF IT  
HAPPENING  
WITH A  
NARWHAL.



ACCORDING  
TO THE SAILORS,  
DEPENDING ON  
THE SEVERITY OF  
THE WEATHER,  
FISH AND OTHER  
CREATURES  
CAN BE DRIVEN  
SOUTH.





AND  
IF IT GOES  
BADLY, THERE  
WOULD BE  
WAR.

THE SOUTH  
SIDE WANTS TO  
MAINTAIN THEIR  
CONTROL, SO  
THEY'LL DO  
ANYTHING TO  
STAY ON EQUAL  
FOOTING.



YES.

THE NORTH  
SIDE BELIEVES  
THEY CAN TURN  
EVERYTHING  
AROUND.

IF THEY  
SELL THE  
NARWHAL,  
THEY'LL  
HAVE MONEY  
TO PAY THEIR  
DEBTS AND  
MORE.




.....BUT  
SURELY  
THAT  
DOESN'T  
MEAN...



THEY'LL  
STEAL  
IT, THEN  
SELL IT.  
TWO BIRDS  
WITH ONE  
STONE.




SO THE  
SOUTH CAN'T  
LET THEM  
HAVE IT,  
NO MATTER  
THE COST.



SO  
WILL YOU  
DO IT?

...NO,  
WAIT.



THAT'S WHY  
THEY TOOK IT TO  
THE CHURCH. TO  
AVOID HAVING IT  
TAKEN BY FORCE  
OF ARMS.

WHAT  
WILL IT  
TAKE TO  
CONVINCE  
YOU TO  
DO IT?

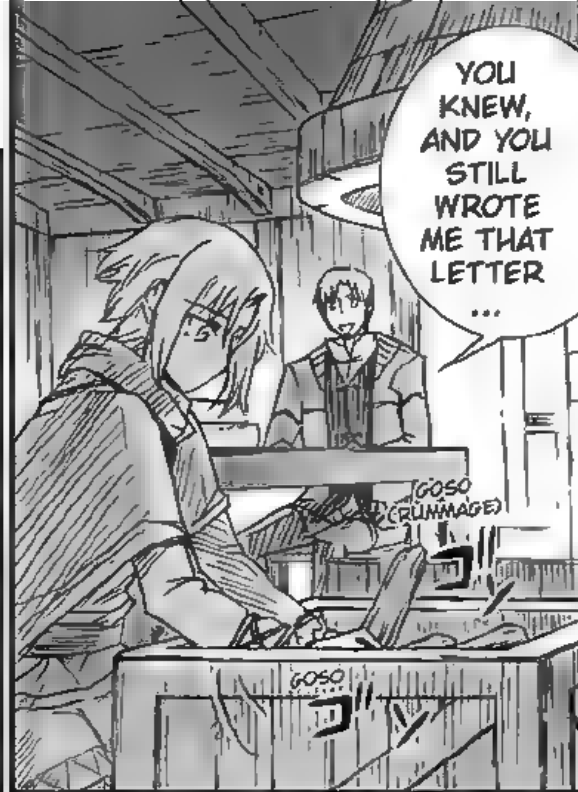


—IF YOU  
CAN SLIP  
THROUGH  
THIS  
PASSAGE...

...DON'T  
YOU THINK  
SOMETHING  
INCREDIBLE  
AWAITS  
YOU ON  
THE OTHER  
SIDE?

SHE'S  
RIGHT.







I'M  
SURE  
IT IS.



SO  
WHAT  
DO YOU  
SAY?

IT'S  
QUITE AN  
OPPORTUNITY,  
I FEEL.



HE'S  
A GREAT  
MERCHANT.



DID  
YOU SEE  
KIEMAN?

SO?

HOW  
WERE YOU  
TREATED AT  
THE GUILD  
HOUSE?



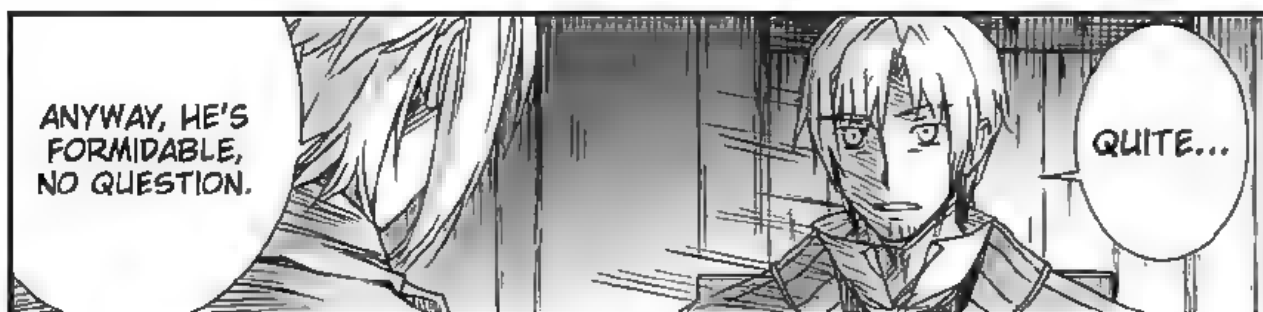
SO WHY DO  
YOU MENTION  
MR. KIEMAN?



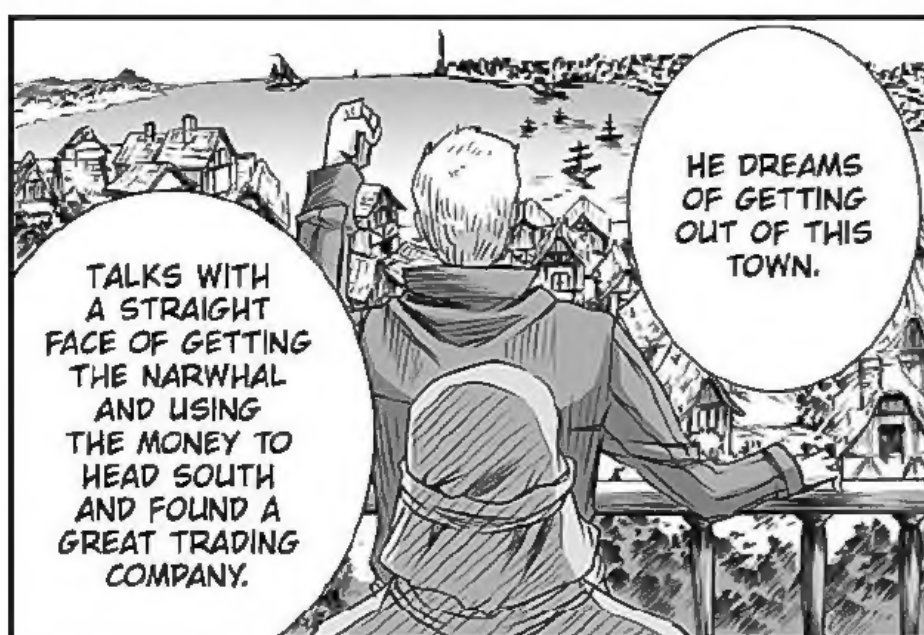
OH,  
INDEED.  
THERE'S  
A GIFTED  
TRADER  
IN EVERY  
GUILD.

AND  
HE'S  
THE  
ONE.











**I MUST  
TURN ON HIM,  
MUSTN'T I?**



**WHEN.**



**GOTO  
GINTO  
フ**



**WILL  
YOU  
COME  
WORK  
FOR  
ME?**

**SO I'LL  
ASK YOU  
ONE MORE  
TIME, KRAFT  
LAWRENCE.**

*Special Thanks !!*

MR. ITTOUHEI OKAMOTO, MR. TENTSU  
TOI, MR. YAKKUN, MR. N-TA, MR. A

**To be continued in Volume 10...**



I turn around, and suddenly we're at Volume 9!  
Koume-san's Eve is so clever and surprisingly  
adorable that she makes my heart beat faster! I  
can't take my eyes off the story. Hang in there!

支倉凍砂  
ISUNA HASEKURA

# SPICE & WOLF

CONGRATULATIONS ON VOLUME  
9 GOING ON SALE! NOW THAT  
EVE'S FINALLY SHOWN UP,  
I'M MORE SUCKED INTO THE  
STORY THAN EVER BEFORE.  
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HOW  
THE MANGA VERSION OF  
THE STORY TAKES SHAPE.





# SPICE & WOLF ⑨

---

ISUNA HASEKURA

KEITO KOUME

CHARACTER DESIGN:

JYUU AYAKURA

TRANSLATION: PAUL STARR

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LETTERING: TERRI DELGADO

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OOKAMI TO KOUSHINRYOU Vol. 9

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